Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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11 DAYS before federalization

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to vote in the Nov. 23 runoff election?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of November 16, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

GenX Angst

They're antsy and edgy, tired of waiting for promotion at work as their elders put off retirement.

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Hero Worship

Fifteen-year-old Chloe Bates is in love– with Taylor Lautner, one of the hunky stars of the "Twilight" films.

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Emergency responders bring a patient to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room.

JUDE O. MARFIL

A CLOSER LOOK AT CHC

Treatments gone awry

By JUDE O. MARFIL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SPECIAL REPORT

First part of a series

Cheryl Indalecio buried her only son seven years ago. Yet the image of Christopher Ray Indalecio struggling for his life at the Commonwealth Health Center remains vivid in her mind.

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Kumoi backs Heinz; Borja supports Fitial

Guerrero

Borja

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former independent gubernatorial candidate Ramon "Kumoi" S. Deleon Guerrero endorsed yesterday the candidacy of Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider of the Republican Party, while his former running mate, Dr. David Borja, is supporting Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party in the Nov. 23 runoff elections.

See KUMOI on Page 4

Losing NI mayoral bet alleges 21 illegal votes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ramona Taisakan Rebuenog, a Northern Islands mayoralty candidate who lost to mayor-elect Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan by a single vote, has challenged in court 21 votes that she alleged are illegal.

Rebuenog, through lawyer Richard Pierce W. Pierce, named the Commonwealth Election Commission and Aldan as defendants in the lawsuit.

Rebuenog asked the Superior

See LOSING on Page 4

House rejects Senate budget bill

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Arnold Palacios, left, confers with House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho during yesterday afternoon's session on the budget bill.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On a 17-0 vote with one abstention, the House of Representatives rejected yesterday the Senate-amended Fiscal Year 2010 budget bill that includes a 16-hour cut in government work hours per pay period.

The Senate passed the amended budget bill on a 5-0 vote on Oct. 28 by including austerity measures that

See HOUSE on Page 4

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Local

40 new hemodialysis machines await certification

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez disclosed Friday that the hospital received two weeks ago 40 new hemodialysis machines for the anticipated opening of the hospital's dialysis center. However, the equipment are still awaiting Medicare approval.

Villagomez explained that Medicare needs to certify all 40 machines before they can be used for the new center. The units must also comply with federal requirements.

"These 40 new hemodialysis machines just arrived two weeks ago and we're just waiting for Medicare now to come and certify these units for application," Villagomez said.

He said the application for the machines was submitted several weeks ago. There has been no response from the Medicare yet, he added.

"We're very hopeful they will be here soon," he said, adding that the equipment are stored right now at the old facility but are ready for transfer to the new center.

Once all these units are installed, there will only be two shifts daily at the hemodialysis center from the current four shifts.

"This means actual savings for the hospital, because we will no longer pay overtime for our staff in those shifts," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that once the hemodialysis center opens, an estimated 27 patients can be treated all at the same time in one shift.

Among Medicare's requirements for certification include the hiring of a medical director, administrator, social worker and renal dietitian for the facility. It was also learned that the new facility needs to address issues such as a flawed design and concerns about its water treatment system.

But Villagomez said the issue about the "flawed design" is a "different thing" while concerns about the water treatment system is now being addressed.

He declined to comment about the "flawed design," saying the case is in litigation.

As of last month, a total of 102 patients are being dialyzed at the hospital by a private clinic, St. Jude Renal Care. The CNMI has no dialysis patient being treated off-island. About 25 dialysis machines in the old facility are now more than 9-years-old.

COMING SOON!

Guam/CNMI Military Contracting Opportunities Symposium

Hosted by the Office of U.S. Defense Representative for Guam, CNMI, FSM, and Palau

Wednesday, November 18
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saipan World Resort

A pre-event mixer is scheduled for
November 17, 5:00 p.m.
Saipan World Resort

Whether you own a company or are looking to start-one-up, the Guam/CNMI Symposium is your opportunity to learn how to do business with the U.S. Military. Topics will include U.S. Military contracting, small business opportunities available through military construction projects, the military build-up and so much more.

To register visit www.commerce.gov.mp, download a registration form and submit it via email to CNMISymposium@gmail.com or fax to 670-433-4329.

Registration is required and seating is limited.

Registration fee: $20 includes buffet lunch and all day symposium

(Alternate registration options are available for those wishing to dine elsewhere. Please see registration form for details.)

Live video teleconferencing will be available for residents in Rota and Tinian at the Northern Marianas College campuses.

Co-hosted by: NAVFAC Naval Facilities Engineering Command MARIANAS

Supported by: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Official Seal

Tourism Tuesday

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Tourism Trivia

How well to you know tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands? Fill out this original form and drop it off to the Marianas Visitors Authority on Beach Rd., Oleai this week. Two lucky winners with the correct answer will have their names printed in next week's Tourism Tuesday.

In fiscal year 2009, how many visitors did the island of Rota receive?

- ☐ About 6,000?
- ☐ About 11,000?
- ☐ About 15,000?

Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Nov. 20, 2009. The two randomly selected winners will also receive a 10th anniversary Saipan-da gift. HINT: The answer is in a previous November 2009 edition of Tourism Tuesday.

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Marianas Visitors Authority

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

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TO ACHIEVE FULL-COST RECOVERY GOAL:

CUC hires consultant

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. advised the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission yesterday that a consultant will soon be hired to help the agency achieve full-cost recovery for both its water and wastewater systems.

Executive director Tony Muña disclosed during yesterday's hearing with the commission that CUC will be hiring economists.com for most likely a one-year contract.

At present, CUC is paying for the services of the PUC-commissioned Georgetown Consulting Group.

Muña said CUC will continue to pay for this obligation even if economists.com comes onboard because the new group will collaborate with Georgetown.

He said tapping the services of economists.com is in the best interest of CUC and its customers because the consultant will address the operational needs of the agency and justify its recommended actions to the commission.

When CUC broached the idea of hiring economists.com last year, the consulting group quoted a fee of $200,000 but Muña said CUC has yet to commit to that amount for the contract.

"CUC has not committed to hire economists.com at $200K. This is the amount quoted to CUC over a year ago. We expect to finalize the cost of the contract this week," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He also expects the contract to be executed between the parties this week.

Muña said CUC will apply for a grant to help defray the cost of the contract.

"Payment to the consultant will not be based on a one-time payment but based on progress billing as agreed on the contract," he added.

During yesterday's hearing, commission member Viola Alepuyo raised two concerns with the hiring of a new consultant: if CUC is able to pay for the consultant when it is still paying for the services of Georgetown, and if the move is in the right direction for CUC to deal with the federal government's stipulated orders.

Muna said the payment for economists.com will be sourced from grants that will be made available to the agency.

He said economists.com is familiar with CUC's financial situation as it has worked with CUC more than two years ago. CUC first hired economists.com in January 2006 to do a water and wastewater rate study. The same degree of work is also expected this time around, according to Muña.

"The foundation is already there," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Although hiring economists.com will incur expenses, Muña said CUC is looking at the bigger picture "because they will focus on CUC's assets and will make sure we have sufficient revenues for our operations and expenses."

When asked if CUC is not confident in the ability of Georgetown to represent it, Muna said: "Not at all. But we have to remember that Georgetown's responsibility, of course, is to the commission."

He assured the collaborative efforts of both CUC's consultant and Georgetown, emphasizing that economists.com's main focus will be to address CUC's full cost recovery.

According to the economists.com's Web site, the firm has both public and private sector clients in infrastructure industries such as water/wastewater, electric/gas, and telecommunications.

It helps clients like CUC find and capture emerging growth opportunities that fit the competitive strengths of their organization. This includes assistance in short and long-term strategic planning, market analysis, economic and financial analysis, and forecasting.

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HEINZ SABLAN HOFSCHNEIDER
and ARNOLD INDALECIO PALACIOS

To My Dearest People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

My family joins me in taking this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for exercising your rights to vote as citizens of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on November 7, 2009. Our Congratulations to all the Winning Candidates! Winning indeed is an honor that comes with hard work and sacrifice.

As we all know, this upcoming November 23, 2009 is the Run-Off Election. It is a democratic process in which we, as citizens should abide to the Constitutional Provision for the Executive Branch ensuring the 50% plus 1 in entrusting our Commonwealth to a Prosperous, Clean, Safe, Honest and Open Government.

As a former Congressman, I witnessed the leadership of Congressman Heinz Sablan Hofschneider. He is a competent-leader that will defend and protect the interest of the people of the Commonwealth. Because of his integrity, enthusiasm, determination, innovative ideas, and confidence, he is ready to embrace changes to try and uplift the Commonwealth during this economic turmoil. He is the leader that we should be proud of because he has the credentials and capabilities required of a Governor. Moreso, he is a leader that the Commonwealth will be recognized and considered in any form because of his abilities and dedication to perform beyond the call of duties. With Speaker Arnold Indalecio Palacios as his right hand, together, they will lead our Commonwealth to a prosperous and safe place to live. I truly believe and have the confidence that the HOFSCHNEIDER/PALACIOS TANDEM will lead us to a better tomorrow here in the Commonwealth.

Again, my dear people of the Commonwealth, please exercise your rights to vote on November 23, 2009 and vote for

HEINZ SABLAN HOFSCHNEIDER For Governor and
ARNOLD INDALECIO PALACIOS For Lieutenant Governor.

They are the team that will care, defend and protect the Commonwealth for years to come.

Thank you, Si Yuus Maase. Olomwaay, Maraming Salamat Po for your Support and Vote of Confidence.

ROSIKY FLORES CAMACHO AND FAMILY

Man in 'ice' trafficking case pleads guilty

A man who was charged in the sale of 14.1 grams of "ice" to a Drug Enforcement Administration's cooperating source in a sting operation has pleaded guilty.

Ya Bin Huang pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison, a $2 million fine, and six years of supervised release.

Under the plea agreement, the sentencing guidelines range is 46 months to 57 months in prison.

During Friday's hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman accepted Huang's plea and the agreement.

Wiseman set the sentencing for Feb. 16, 2010, at 9am. He remanded the defendant to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

According to DEA, Huang was the companion of Chun Mei Lin, a Chinese woman who sold 15 grams of "ice" worth $6,000 to DEA confidential source in the parking of a store in Chalan Kanoa on Aug. 29, 2008.

Lin was also allegedly found in possession of 40 more grams of "ice" on July 28, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

John Gonzales Live schedule

Two hours of John Gonzales Live on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, on KSPN Ch. 2. Text your questions or comments to 285-HAFA (4232)

■ Live, 7pm-8 pm: Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios promoting their candidacy for the runoff election. Replays, Thursday, Nov. 19, and Friday, Nov. 20, from 7pm to 8 pm on Ch. 2.

■ LIVE, 8pm-9 pm: NMD for Self Government & Indigenous Rights. Replays, Thursday, Nov. 19, and Friday, Nov. 20, from 8:30pm to 9:30pm. ***(PR)***

Kagman Elementary School events

■ All students from kindergarten to 5th grade will have an early dismissal and students will be released on Nov. 20, 2009 at 12pm. PSS bus will provide bus transportation to all students who are bus riders. Parents and guardians who pick up their children may pick up their children at 12pm as well.

■ 1st Quarter Report cards distribution will be on Nov. 20, 2009, at 1:30pm to 4:30pm in your child's respective homeroom teacher's classrooms. All parents and guardians are encouraged to come in and pick up your child's 1st Quarter Report cards by meeting with your child's homeroom teacher and be informed about your child's progress during the 1st Quarter report distribution.

■ PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this meeting. The agenda will include the accreditation visit for the school. ***(PR)***

Saipan Southern High School event

To all Saipan Southern High School students: The 1st Quarter Report card is scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, from 3pm to 6pm, at the counseling office. All students will be released at 12:50pm. ***(PR)***

Navy, Air Force set exercises on FDM

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct live-fire and laser training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Nov. 16 to 21, from 7am to 1am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and dates indicated. ***(PR)***

KHS PTSA meeting, report card distribution tomorrow

Attention to parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: There will be a PTSA meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009, from 6pm to 7pm, at the School's cafeteria.

The first quarter report card for school year 2009-2010 is set for Thursday, Nov. 19, from 3:30pm to 6pm. Report cards will be distributed at all classes. Students, please advise your parents/guardians on all your classroom number, with teacher's name. Class schedule will be half-dayonly. Students will be released at noon. ***(PR)***

LOSING

From Page 1

Court to declare her as the elected mayor of the Northern Islands because she had the largest number of legal votes cast in the Nov. 7, 2009, election.

She asked the court to void any certification of election issued to Aldan.

Rebuenog also sought the court's judgment holding the Election Commission and Aldan jointly liable to her for her fees, costs, and expenses in the court proceeding.

Aldan, an independent candidate, received 68 votes, while Rebuenog, who ran under the Covenant Party, got 67 votes. This prompted Rebuenog to move for a recount of votes.

During the recounting on Friday, CEC determined the same results and certified that Aldan won the race.

Pierce stated in the complaint that on Nov. 7, CEC allowed about 21 individuals in election Precinct 4-D that had previously registered and voted in Precinct 3.

Pierce said votes in Precinct 4-D are eligible to vote for the Northern Islands mayor, while voters in Precinct 3 are not eligible to vote for the Northern Islands mayor.

The lawyer said these 21 individuals were not, on Nov. 7 or ever, residents of the Northern Islands and were thus ineligible to vote in Precinct 4-D and for the Northern Islands mayor.

Pierce said these 21 voted in the Nov. 7 Northern Islands mayoral election and voted for Aldan, giving him 69 votes to 68 for Rebuenog.

"Without the CEC's counting these 21 illegal votes or a subset of the same, Rebuenog would have easily prevailed over Aldan for the position of Northern Islands mayor," Pierce said.

KUMOI

From Page 1

Deleon Guerrero and Borja finished last in the four-way gubernatorial race on Nov. 7.

Another independent gubernatorial candidate, businessman Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero, said last week that he will not endorse either Fitial or Hofschneider, but his former running mate, House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, as well as most of the members of the Committee to Elect Guerrero-Camacho, is endorsing Fitial.

In a phone interview yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said the decision was reached after consulting with his supporters.

Deleon Guerrero, popularly known as "Kumoi," said that Fitial and his running mate Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, as well as Hofschneider and his running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, made a presentation about their platforms at his house in As Perdido on Wednesday night.

"I have to follow and respect my supporters' wishes. I have to stand for my supporters. We were packed when we had the presentations by both teams on Wednesday night—about 400 people. On Rota, only Palacios was there to make a presentation during the weekend," he said.

Deleon Guerrero, a former executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., said should the Hofschneider-Palacios team win and they need help addressing concerns about CUC, he could help as a consultant.

"But I am not expecting anything," said Deleon Guerrero, a government retiree.

The Hofschneider-Palacios team edged the Fitial-Inos pair by only eight votes, 4,900-4,892, marking the closest gubernatorial race in CNMI history.

Because neither team got at least 50 percent plus 1 of the votes cast, a gubernatorial runoff election will be held on Nov. 23, the first time in CNMI history.

In a separate two-page statement yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said the Hofschneider-Palacios team has taken to heart their former campaign theme of "Time for Change."

"We must participate, help and join Hofschneider-Palacios campaign so that the incompetent leadership of the current administration will not continue to make our lives more miserable," Deleon Guerrero said.

He also said the Republican team agrees that, while privatization of CUC may be a long-term goal, immediate action on CUC is critical to stave off further deterioration of the fragile economy by using local experts as much as possible.

The Covenant Party, in a separate statement, said it appreciates but respectfully disagrees with Deleon Guerrero's statement in connection with CUC.

"Without engaging in a back and forth over every point, we are curious if Kumoi has been made aware of our opponent's plan to privatize our [CUC] given his strong campaign promise to reduce our utility costs. The facts are clear: selling the generators for $250 million would force the purchasers to write that cost off over 10 years [minimum] and then pass them on to the more than 15,000 ratepayers. This plan for selling CUC would result in an average increase of $140 per ratepayer per month for 10 years. As an example, if your average monthly utility billing is $200 per month, the Heinz tax would increase your monthly billing to $340 a month," the Covenant Party said.

Fitial and Inos, in a separate statement, welcome the endorsement of the Covenant team by Borja and "more than 60 percent of the Committee to Elect Kumoi and Borja."

"I am so pleased to have the endorsement of not only Dr. Borja but also many of the fine and hardworking leaders from the Committee to Elect Kumoi and Borja. They ran a strong campaign and injected true passion into their efforts," Fitial said.

Besides Borja, the other members of the committee who now support the Covenant team are: Rudy R. Sablan, overall chairman of the Committee to Elect Kumoi/Borja; Alvin Cruz, chairman of the Rota Committee to Elect Kumoi/Borja; Pete Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan, campaign manager; Angie S. Iba, special advisor; Delbert R. Sablan, logistics chairman; Cornelio T. Castro, site committee chairman; and Pete Castro, food preparation chairman.

HOUSE

From Page 1

would help reduce the projected deficit of $15.3 million in FY 2010, which began on Oct. 1.

House Bill 16-275, HD2, SS1, SD1, however, does not change the House's identified budgetary resources of $162.820 million.

The House bill pegs the appropriations at $150,288,886, while the Senate amended it to $154,418,886.

At yesterday's House session, only gubernatorial candidate Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) and Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (Cov-Saipan) were under excused absences.

Except for Rep. Stanley Torres who abstained from voting on the budget bill, all the other 17 members present voted "no" to the Senate version of the budget bill.

After the voting, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) immediately appointed Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) to head a conference committee that will work with their Senate counterparts on a compromise budget bill.

Yumul is the original author of the FY 2010 budget bill.

Palacios named three other members of the conference committee: Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), Rep. Victor Hocog (Cov-Rota), and Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian).

Quitugua, in an interview, said he expects a compromise bill to be worked out before the end of the year.

"It's been my position a long time ago not to support these austerity measures. I'm also hoping that ARRA funding will improve the collection in 2010," he added. ARRA stands for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Palacios, who is running for the lieutenant governor post, said there have been "a lot of differences in the House and Senate versions of the budget bill" that need to be evaluated. He also said that the Department of Public Health has always been "under-funded."

Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan) said he voted "no" on the budget bill because he does not support the austerity measures incorporated by the Senate.

The Senate's proposal to reduce work hours to 64 from 80 every pay day is more drastic than the every-other Friday austerity measure under Public Law 15-24.

Before the House voted on the Senate-amended bill yesterday, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) recommend that should the House approve the bill, it should retain the Senate's approach to the reserve account, but cautions against retaining other provisions such as the monthly extra $5,000 for Rota and Tinian lawmakers, and the austerity measures that she described as "not the fairest and most appropriate" ways to "cut the fat."

The House rejected the Senate-amended bill altogether. The budget bill went back to the House because of the Senate's amendments, mainly the austerity measures, which also became the House members' main concern.

The Senate also capped the number of full-time employees to 3,556 instead of 3,549 set by the House.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), believing that the House will likely reject the Senate budget bill, earlier appointed three senators to a conference committee who will work with their House counterparts on the budget bill.

Reyes named Sen. Paul Manglona (R-Rota) to chair the three-member conference committee, along with members Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) and Sen. Joseph Mendiola (Cov-Tinian).

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan), who did not seek re-election, declined to chair the conference committee.

In the 68-page Standing Committee Report on the bill, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee said incorporating austerity measures into the budget measure will not only avoid over $15.3 million in shortfall, but will also sustain the employment of 3,556 full-time employees, and maintain basic public services.

If austerity measures are not implemented, the budget shortfall for FY 2010 will be $15,346,557, the committee said.

Without the austerity Fridays, however, the government can cut all costs by about 10 percent, take $15 million from the operational costs, or order a reduction in force.

In the House budget bill for FY 2010, there are no salary cuts but non-personnel costs are reduced by $9.7 million in lieu of austerity compared to FY 2009 non-personnel spending.

House Bill 16-275 also pumps money into paying the government's $231 million deficient employer contribution to the Retirement Fund, as ordered by a June 29 Superior Court ruling, among other things.

FOR EDUCATION MONTH CELEBRATION:

Mendiola, Santos named Koblerville school's outstanding employees

Mendiola

Santos

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School named two individuals as its outstanding employees of the year who will vie for the Public School System's search for overall honors this month.

Principal Rizalina Purugganan recognized the achievements of Lynn Mendiola and Antonino Santos who have been named the school's Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year respectively.

Mendiola, who has been with public schools for six years now, is a fifth grade teacher and has been with the Umang family since August 2007.

Purugganan described the Teacher of the Year awardee as very dedicated and always willing to lead the school in different student support programs.

Mendiola is the school's Language Arts Department chairperson and is also actively involved in the PSS professional learning community.

According to the principal, Mendiola also provides numerous professional development trainings on reading and writing strategies. As a teacher leader, Mendiola handles many students support programs, including the Scripps National Spelling Bee contest, Academic Challenge Bowl, the Umang Times monthly newsletter, and other school programs.

"Mrs. Mendiola is also a very responsible teacher. She is very organized. She makes learning fun [and] she is very helpful. As a teacher mentor, she is very supportive to novice teachers and shares her materials and her teaching strategies with other teachers," Purugganan said, adding that Mendiola also makes everyone comfortable because she knows how to approach her colleagues.

This year's Support Staff of the Year, Antonino Santos, has been with the PSS for 24 consecutive years. His passion to serve students motivates him to stay on as a tradesman.

Purugganan said Santos is also the oldest employee of the school.

The principal shared that Santos' creativity and dedication to the school are evident in many of his projects, including building the stage, construction of covered walkways, and building the Chamorro-Carolinian Language Heritage Studies classroom.

Santos, she added, accomplishes his tasks with a smile and works beyond his duties and responsibilities.

Besides being a tradesman, Santos also often helps maintain the school's lawn, cleans and fixes the restrooms, and helps repair broken equipment and school furniture.

Purugganan said the two are the only educational awardees this year and they have no nominees for the three other award categories: teacher aide, counselor and administrator of the year awards.

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(Quatermaster road)
出演：OHEL DAVID（沖縄出身、日本からの男性カルテットグループ）
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Money seized from son is released to Mayor Inos

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has agreed to release to Rota Mayor Joseph Inos the $3,475.75 cash that was seized from his son, Wilbur Vic Masga Inos, shortly after the Aug. 4, 2008, robbery at Rota Poker.

The U.S. government, through assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, agreed with Wilbur Vic Inos, through his lawyer Robert T. Torres, for the release of the evidence.

Benedetto and Torres agreed that the money should be released to Torres, who will then hand over the cash to the defendant's father.

The parties said that Mayor Inos voluntarily made restitution to the victim, Byung Kook Choi, owner of Rota Poker, for the full amount of his loss within days of the robbery.

The other victim in the case, Feljun Guillermo, who was the cashier of the poker establishment at the time, has indicated he did not lose any money due to the robbery.

Since the victims in the case appear to have been fully compensated for any loss they suffered as a result of the robbery, and no other party has any claim to the money in question, both parties agreed to the release of the money.

The federal court sentenced Wilbur Inos in September to seven years in prison for the robbery.

Inos signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

Torres earlier stated that his client took responsibility for his actions.

"Being a young man he was able to decide to accept responsibility and by serving his sentence will make amends to the community for his conduct and we'll look forward to the day when he is able to return to be a productive member of society," Torres said.

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!
SATURDAY morning, November 21, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
Join us this
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – 13 Fishermen
Tinian: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tachonga Beach
Rota: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tétoto Beach

Tinian mayor-elect forms transition team

Tinian mayor-elect Ramon Dela Cruz announced yesterday the membership of his Transition Committee.

Former mayor Francisco M. Borja will be chairman of the Tinian 2010 Transition Committee. His team is obliged to present a final transition report to the mayor-elect and the Tinian leadership-elect no later than Jan. 4, 2010. The transition report will guide the development of an action plan for the new administration.

Peter Q. Cruz Jr. will serve as vice chairman of the transition committee.

The chairpersons of the various subcommittees are the following: Inauguration Committee, Ignacio K. Quichocho; Mayor's Office, Allen Perez; CIP Review, Don Farrell; Legislative Review, Peter Cruz, Jr.; Departmental Review, Lydia Barcinas; and Education, Diana Borja.

Each subcommittee is obliged to compile a concise report to be submitted to the Transition Chairman no later than Dec. 22, 2009. Subcommittee chairpersons will establish their own committee membership. ***(PR)***

Man indicted for alleged fake distress call

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man has been indicted in federal court for allegedly making a false distress call to the Emergency Management Office last April.

Jose L. Kaipat, 41, was indicted on one count of false distress message. He is currently working and residing in the western district of Washington.

The U.S. government had already served the summons to Kaipat. The Public Defender's Office in Seattle is currently serving as his counsel.

The sealed indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Nov. 5. Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted the U.S. government's motion to unseal the case yesterday.

According to the indictment, Kaipat made a false message to the U.S. Coast Guard on April 18, 2009, when he called EMO to say he was a boater in distress while en route to Saipan from Guam.

The false message caused the U.S. Coast Guard to "attempt to save lives and property when no help was needed."

No other details were indicated in the indictment.

Saipan Tribune files showed that on that same day, April 18, 2009, the U.S. Coast Guard conducted a search and rescue operation after they received a call from the EMO about a family of four who has been reported missing.

Apparently, the EMO got a cellular phone call from a man who identified himself as Ray Quichocho and stated that he and his family were traveling from Guam to Rota on their catamaran and that they were encountering big waves about 10 miles from Two Lovers Point.

Saipan Tribune confirmed that Ray Quichocho is not the Saipan lawyer Ramon "Ray" Quichocho.

Guam media also reported that no relatives have surfaced to report that Ray Quichocho was missing at that time.

At that time, the U.S. Coast Guard declined to say whether the distress call was a hoax.

Car seat voucher increased to $100

The Department of Public Safety said yesterday its Highway Safety Office will resume the Car Seat Assistance Voucher Program on Monday, Nov. 16, 2009.

DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela said the car seat assistance vouchers will be raised to $100 per household.

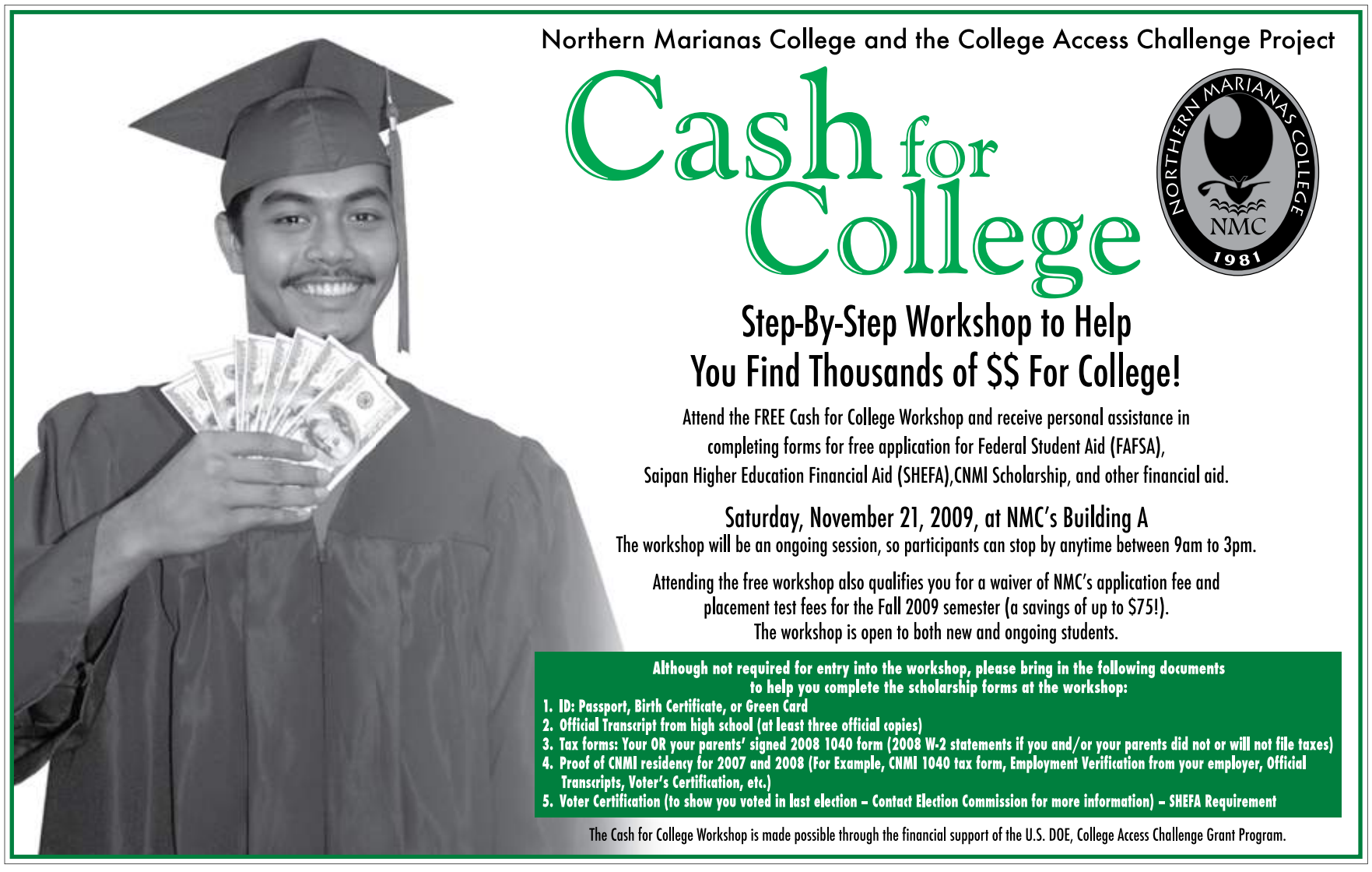
Applicants are required to provide the following documents when applying:

1. Birth certificate of the child
2. Vehicle registration
3. Identification of parent or legal guardian (proof of legal guardianship)
4. Price quotation from participating stores:

■ ACE Hardware/Gualo Rai
■ J.C. Tenorio Ent. /Joeten-Susupe
■ YCO Corporation/Liberty Plaza

Should you have any questions or plan to apply for this assistance, call 664-9121/22 or stop by the DPS office in Susupe.

This program is made possible by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the CNMI DPS. ***(DPS)***


Northern Marianas College and the College Access Challenge Project
Cash for College
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NMC
1981
Step-By-Step Workshop to Help
You Find Thousands of $$ For College!
Attend the FREE Cash for College Workshop and receive personal assistance in completing forms for free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid (SHEFA),CNMI Scholarship, and other financial aid.
Saturday, November 21, 2009, at NMC's Building A
The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am to 3pm.
Attending the free workshop also qualifies you for a waiver of NMC's application fee and placement test fees for the Fall 2009 semester (a savings of up to $75!).
The workshop is open to both new and ongoing students.
Although not required for entry into the workshop, please bring in the following documents to help you complete the scholarship forms at the workshop:
1. ID: Passport, Birth Certificate, or Green Card
2. Official Transcript from high school (at least three official copies)
3. Tax forms: Your OR your parents' signed 2008 1040 form (2008 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes)
4. Proof of CNMI residency for 2007 and 2008 (For Example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voter's Certification, etc.)
5. Voter Certification (to show you voted in last election – Contact Election Commission for more information) – SHEFA Requirement
The Cash for College Workshop is made possible through the financial support of the U.S. DOE, College Access Challenge Grant Program.

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

PROMISE OF NEW JOBS WHEN RE-ELECTED!

Much as has been said about our campaign "Promising" jobs to the people of the NMI in an attempt to convince voters to re-elect us as Governor and Lt. Governor.

LET US BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT THIS – ABSOLUTELY WE ARE PROMISING NEW JOBS TO THE CITIZENS OF THE NMI IF RE-ELECTED!

The policies that our administration have employed and adopted have given the investment and small business community the necessary tools to weather some of these economic storms and prosper.
Below are some of the examples of jobs and potential jobs that our administration has been partly responsible through their policies for providing to the citizens of the NMI just within the **PAST YEAR ALONE**.

1. Lao Lao Bay Development
2. Water Bottling Facility in Rota
3. New Casino development in Rota
4. WIA (Workers Investment Act)
5. $96 million in ARRA funds that was pumped into the economy which helped a number of small businesses continue to operate and in some cases expand operations.
6. New Patient Transport Service

We are now exploring job and economic opportunities through the expansion of military operations in the Pacific Region and exploration of geothermal energy technology.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE NEW REVENUE STREAMS!

We are the only campaign with **Proven Experience** in bringing new investment to the Commonwealth and no matter the obstacles put in place by members of the Legislature and by Federalization we will continue to promote the opportunities to investors around the world.

Please Vote for the Right Choice on November 23rd

Vote Ben and Eloy!

The only Team that has been Proven and Tested!

Covenant PARTY
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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

A Double Weekend & Thanksgiving Holiday

Tennis Extravaganza in Saipan

Junior Short Court Singles and Doubles and Adult Singles:
November 20-22, 2009
First Matches will start at 5pm on Friday, Nov. 20, 2009
Entry Deadline: Monday, November 16
Draws Posted by: Thursday, November 19

Junior Long Court Singles and Doubles and Adult Doubles:
November 25 (Evening), 27-29 (All Day), 2009
Only Saipan residents will play Wednesday, November 25. Off-island competitors will start, at the earliest, at 9am Friday, Nov. 27.
Entry Deadline: Friday, November 20
Draw Posted by: Monday, November 23

Matches will be played at American Memorial Park (Headquarters), Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Pacific Islands Club.

Consolation Draws for first round losers - two matches guaranteed - prizes for all main draw finalists and singles consolations winners.

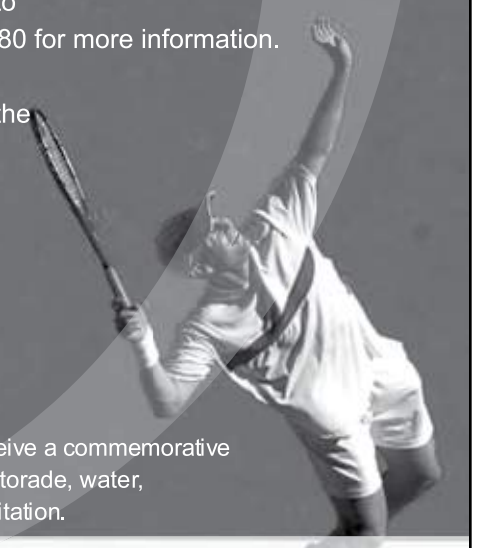
To Register:
Please pick up registration forms at Tan Holdings accounting office: 1st Floor, JP Center (Century Travel, Century Insurance, Saipan Tribune are located within this building) on Beach Road, Garapan. Submit cash or check (made payable to "Tan Siu Lin Foundation") with your registration form.

Singles: $15.00
Doubles: $10.00 (per person)
Singles and Doubles: $25.00

Or you can visit the official website at:
www.tanholdings.com/tennis/

Applications and inquiries may be emailed to ed_arriola@tanholdings.com or call 233-8080 for more information.

Entry form and check must be received by the entry deadline.



1st ANNUAL Tan Holdings TENNIS CLASSIC

Participants receive a commemorative towel, t-shirt, Gatorade, water, and banquet invitation.

Grand Slam sponsors:
Gatorade, #1 Quality Distributors (Meat • Seafood • Food Products), TakeCare®, Mobil®, Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Match Point sponsors:
AON, Shirley's Coffee Shop, IT&E, Continental Airlines, Hertz®, docomo Pacific

Ace sponsors:
First Hawaiian Bank, Deloitte., Miller Lite, Pepsi, AMS Typhoon Shutters

NMI hotels' occupancy drops 20 pct. in October

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported yesterday a 39 percent occupancy rate among its 13 member hotels for October 2009, a 20-percent decrease from October 2008.

A total of 33,132 of the 84,165 available room nights were sold in October, compared to 50,157 of 85,002 of available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were almost unchanged, from $86.54 last year to $85.99 in October 2009.

"As this is the slowest travel period of the year and travel demand is low, in October we suffered the effect of having fewer air seats from Japan," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "In addition to our growing need for more consumer promotions, we are now also facing the effects of renewed fears of H1N1."

So far this year, hotel occupancy is at an average 59 percent compared to 62 percent average occupancy over the same period last year.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the CNMI. ***(HANMI)***

Venue change for Grazing Academy workshops on Tinian

To better accommodate participants, the second series of workshops from the Northern Marianas College's Marianas Grazing Academy has been moved to the Fleming Restaurant on Tinian instead of the NMC instructional site. The workshops will still be held on Nov. 17, 18, and 19, from 9am to 3:30pm on all three days. The Academy is aimed at building local agricultural capacity and educating farmers and ranchers about increasing the economic viability of their products.

The workshops, which require no registration or participation fees, will include training on pasture and livestock management issues, including forage production, grazing management planning, weed control, forage selection, animal health and treatment practices, meat quality and marketing, and mobile slaughter facilities.

To register for the workshops, contact Dr. Allan Sabaldica at 433-2576 or e-mail allans@nmcnet.edu.

The Marianas Grazing Academy project has been made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CSREES Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers. ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 17, 1999

Bank of Guam tapped for educational loans
CNMI officials have begun talks with Bank of Guam on the possibility of extending government-guaranteed loans to local students who will not be able to receive financial assistance under the scholarship program. They are also studying a proposal to ask the Marianas Public Land Trust to invest some of its money into the education of government scholars in an effort to help defray tuition costs and other expenses. According to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Karl T. Reyes, these plans will help the government meet its mounting financial obligations, particularly in the scholarship program which funding under the FY 2000 budget has been cut by 50 percent.

NMC slams ex-BDC chief
The former head of the Northern Marianas College Small Business Development Center was accused yesterday of abuse of power and attempting to secure a contract for himself while still head of SBDC in connection with a project being administered by his office. Ramon A. Villagomez, chairman of the Board of Regents, made the allegations in his letter to Jack Peters, former director of NMC-SBDC, whose proposal to close down the center has drawn criticisms from the Legislature and the college. The plan to scrap the center was only made public after Senate Majority Floor Leader Peter Reyes said he would investigate into the recommendation he described as highly "suspicious." Peters has proposed the closure of SBDC months after he left office to head the Pacific Islands Small Development Network at the University of Guam.

Nov. 17, 2000

Thousands flee homes due to tsunami threat
Thousands of residents fled their homes and drove to higher grounds in anticipation of giant tidal waves hitting the islands as CNMI authorities raised late yesterday two tsunami alert in the wake of a powerful earthquake that shook the Pacific Ocean. The warning, issued by the Emergency Management Office based on the report from the Pacific Tsunami Center in Hawaii, triggered confusion after officials lifted the first alert, then reinstated it a few minutes later just as people were starting to return home. But the Northern Marianas finally was cleared of the danger at about 8:15pm last night. The warning was the first in five years since EMO last issued a similar emergency in 1995.

Pepero-Kiyu to run as independent candidates?
More than a hundred supporters of Pepero-Kiyu gathered Wednesday night at an undisclosed location on the island, prompting speculation the camp may be plotting a comeback in next year's gubernatorial election. According to sources who spoke on condition of anonymity, the group met with top officials of the campaign committee to discuss the possibility of the two running as independent candidates in the November 2001 polls. Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan is in Japan, while Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez could not be reached for comment. His office said he had been in a meeting with other senators to tackle the budget the entire day.

Nov. 17, 2002

Use telephones wisely
On top of existing cost-cutting measures now being implemented by the CNMI government, Finance Secretary Frankie Villanueva is adding another one: cutting back on the bureaucracy's communication costs. Communication costs, he said, is one expenditure class that the government can reduce immediately. In line with this, Villanueva has directed all departments and activity heads to make the necessary changes in their communication infrastructure and systems. As an example, Villanueva said that government agencies can reduce their costs considerably by using lower-end telephone models and eliminating unnecessary add-on services.

One 'helluvah' race at the park
The Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities and the Ayuda Network, Inc. held a wheelchair race for individuals with disabilities and celebrities at the American Memorial Park Saturday morning. At least five persons with disabilities participated in the power wheelchair and manual wheelchair race while 10 individuals without disabilities joined the celebrity match. Ariel Manglona won the manual wheelchair race, while Cynthia Attao bested two others on the power wheelchair match. Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Juan L. Babauta landed on the third slot in the celebrity race. First place winners received $100; $75 was given to the second placers and $50 for third placers.

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VOTE BEN AND ELOY!

Please join the above Leaders

(Fmr. Mayor Jesus S. Deleon Guerrero, David T. Camacho, Fmr. Congressman Juan B. Camacho)

in supporting the only candidates that have Proven Leadership!

Make The "RIGHT" Choice on November 23rd!

Vote Ben & Eloy!

The Only Team that UNITES All of us Together!

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A $300 billion deception

Having passed a health reform bill that is, at least theoretically, paid for, the House of Representatives is poised this week to blow a quarter-trillion-dollar hole in the federal budget involving, you guessed it, health care. This is the so-called doc fix, to prevent scheduled cuts in Medicare reimbursements to physicians from taking effect.

Say you are a member of Congress who agrees that the cuts should be rescinded—that physician payments shouldn't be reduced, that is—but also believes that the payments should not add to the national debt? Under the rule governing the House debate, you won't be allowed to suggest any offsetting savings. Either you go for the doc fix and add massively to the deficit, or you torpedo the fix and wreak havoc in the Medicare program, with a 21 percent cut set to take effect Jan 1. Nice choice. It puts those who believe in both fiscal responsibility and averting these draconian cuts in an impossible situation.

By the way, don't be fooled by the incredible shrinking "cost" of the fix. The official Congressional Budget Office estimate used to be $245 billion over 10 years. Now it's $210 billion. In fact, the real hit to the budget will be closer to $300 billion. The lower CBO numbers stem primarily from the administration's move to change the rules about which physician payments are subject to the cuts. The administration proposed a regulation to exempt drugs administered in doctor's offices, such as chemotherapy, from the spending ceiling. That has the effect of making the cost of the fix look smaller, but it doesn't change the ultimate drain on the treasury: Medicare will end up paying out the same amount of money.

All of this is, to some degree, Medicare kabuki to placate the American Medical Association. The Senate doesn't have the votes to pass a permanent fix without paying for it—though, of course, it also doesn't have the votes actually to pay for it. So while the House might pass the unpaid-for fix, it will likely die there. The result will be another year-long, or possible two-year, patch slapped on this mess. Finding the money to pay for the fix and, more to the point, cobbling together the political coalition to support it, is difficult. Which is why Congress and the administration have joined hands in the pretense that the doc fix has nothing whatsoever to do with health reform.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Runoff election

Notes from the Hill

By MARIA FRICA T. PANGELINAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maria Frica T. Pangelinan is a senator in 16th Northern Marianas Legislature.

During the deliberation on House Bill 16-220, which ultimately became Public Law 16-43 and now governs the upcoming gubernatorial runoff election, the Senate and most especially Sen. Paul Manglona, recognized that there were issues surrounding the benchmark of "total votes cast" versus "votes cast and counted" that needed clarification. We took time to discuss and amend the language of the bill to make it very clear.

The final text of the law states that the total of the votes "cast and counted" is used to determine which candidate has received more than half of the votes. Therefore the intent of how vote counting is to be done in the runoff election is clear and should not face the same legal question as did the initiatives in the general election.

All newly elected members of the Legislature will have an opportunity to meet with the Judicial Branch and get some orientation on how the judicial system looks at the law. During the orientation I remember the emphasis clearly being that the intent and purpose of the law is critical in its interpretation. Keeping this in mind and recognizing the importance of the intent of the law and its purpose, the members of the Senate and most especially Sen. Paul, made sure that the intent of the election law was clear, particularly the meaning of votes cast and counted.

> *I urge you to participate in the runoff election so we can launch a new administrative term with a gubernatorial team who has the support of a clear majority of the registered voters as the runoff election law intends.*

The Senate also examined and acknowledged other potential consequences surrounding runoff elections before recommending passage of the legislation.

Public Law 16-43 provides for a runoff election for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor "if no candidate receives more than one-half (1/2) of the total votes cast and counted." Votes cast and counted means only valid votes are counted to determine the total votes. Valid votes do not include void votes, overvotes, undervotes, or blank votes. In other words, zero votes or void votes, overvotes, undervotes or blank votes are not valid and therefore are not votes cast and counted.

The Senate members also recognized that in most States the number of voters participating in a runoff election is usually less than the number of voters that participated in the preceding general election. This is one consequence of holding an additional and separate election.

The outcome of this runoff election will not necessarily mean that the winner has received the support of the majority of registered voters. The runoff will only determine which candidate receives more than half of the valid (cast and counted) votes of those that go back to the polls and vote for a second time.

As an example: If on Nov. 23 only 9,000 votes are cast and of those, 8,000 are valid, then the total votes "cast and counted" will be 8,000. Therefore, "more than half (½) of the votes cast and counted" in this example is 4,001. This is far less than half of the total registered voters in the CNMI, but in this example, 4,001 valid votes would be all that are needed to proclaim a new governor as coming into office with the support of a majority.

Finally, the Senate members acknowledge and are fully aware that those who voted in the general election and chose the two candidates eligible for the runoff election might not be exactly the same voters who will decide the winner in the runoff election. A registered voter who failed to vote in the general election, unless disqualified for another reason, is still eligible to vote in a runoff and therefore influence the outcome.

I urge you to participate in the runoff election so we can launch a new administrative term with a gubernatorial team who has the support of a clear majority of the registered voters as the runoff election law intends. Otherwise, the goal of obtaining a majority of the electorate is defeated and a runoff election becomes just one more extraneous process that is not financially justifiable.

The team that wins will be facing an extended term of five years filled with serious challenges. Please make every effort to get to the polls on Nov. 23 and mark your ballot carefully to be sure it is counted.

With your right to vote comes the responsibility to do so.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

A voice of support for Heinz-Arnold

My friends and people of the Commonwealth: First, I must thank all my supporters and those who have helped me to participate in the gubernatorial election this year. The campaign was very challenging and we have been fortunate to get to know our people better. This campaign has shown us that our people of the Commonwealth have suffered tremendously and aspires for a better Commonwealth.

My heart goes out to all of the people of the Commonwealth who have suffered from poor governance and poor leadership that have wrecked the lives of our people. This election has shown that many people in the Commonwealth hoped for change and improvements to bring us out of the doldrums.

In the last few days, my supporters and I have had the opportunity to listen to the messages from gubernatorial candidates Heinz Hofschneider and Benigno Fitial. Both candidates have voiced their message and platforms at my residency to my supporters on Saipan. I have also just returned from Rota to thank my supporters and to listen to their aspirations and visions.

After careful deliberation with my supporters, I have made a decision that matches the aspirations, desires and vision that I believe is critical for the Commonwealth.

The Hofschneider-Palacios tandem have revealed and publicly acknowledged that my campaign platform is exactly what the Commonwealth must undertake to turn around the sad state of affairs of the Commonwealth. Hofschneider and Palacios agree that we must reduce of the cost of power generation and remove the fuel surcharge as soon as possible. My platform was to reduce the cost of power generation and pass these savings to the people and to free up cash to pay up to the CNMI Retirement Fund.

Hofschneider and Palacios have also agreed that major improvements to our power distribution, water and sewer systems are critical to ensure the safety and health of our citizens. Hofschneider and Palacios agree that while privatization of CUC may be a long-term goal, immediate action on CUC is critical to stave off further deterioration of our fragile economy by using local experts as much as possible.

My campaign platform is focused on diversification of our economy to bring in new financial services sectors, to enhance the desirability of our education and health care sectors and, most importantly, to increase government delivery of public services efficiently. I envisioned that our health care system to be one that will be operated by highly qualified U.S. doctors, and one that would draw health care visits from all over the Pacific. I envisioned a local college that will truly provide high quality education in collaboration with a major U.S. university. I envisioned that our islands will be cleaned up, and our environment protected to attract tourists. I envisioned that major airlines will focus on bringing in more tourists through a tourist development incentive program.

Hofschneider and Palacios have wholeheartedly embraced these visions. They have even taken to heart, our campaign theme of "Time For Change." Hofschneider has even acknowledged that our differences of over a decade and a half ago is one that was a mistake, and should not hinder the people's need for change that is now at the most critical juncture in the history of the Commonwealth.

And most importantly, the desires of my supporters have confirmed that Hofschneider-Palacios is the right team for us to support to bring much needed change for the people of the Commonwealth.

I am also realistic that there will be a few supporters that may decide not to support Hofschneider-Palacios. I thank all of them for the belief that they have had in my candidacy. I urge all these supporters to consider Hofschneider and Palacios because we simply cannot afford to waste another four years on lies, broken promises, arrogance, and ignorance of the needs of the people of the Commonwealth.

The current leadership of the CNMI is one that has contributed to the mess that we are now in. This current Administration had four years to help the people of the Commonwealth. This Administration promised us to remove the fuel surcharge. They promised to turn around our economy. This current Administration promised that we will have high quality health care. They promised an efficient government. They promised more scholarships. They promised opportunities for our younger generation. None of these promises made by this current Administration have been delivered. The voters cannot expect this Administration to do what is needed and what is right for the Commonwealth.

This current Administration does not deserve another four years of our time. Please do not squander another four years of our lives to poor and ignorant leadership. Please do not allow incompetent people to wreck the lives of our children.

The time for change has come, and I am personally and absolutely convinced that Hofschneider-Palacios will deliver to us a Commonwealth that we all can be proud of. We must participate, help and join Hofschneider-Palacios campaign so that the incompetent leadership of the current Administration will not continue to make our lives more miserable.

I urge all the people of the Commonwealth to support Hofschneider-Palacios so that there will be a future for the younger generation of the Commonwealth. Please vote Hofschneider-Palacios on Nov. 23, 2009. Thank you

Ramon "Kumoi" S. Deleon Guerrero
Former independent gubernatorial candidate

Thank you

Greetings, Hafa Adai, and Tirow: We wish to extend a most sincere thank you and appreciation to all the people who supported and gave their vote of confidence for the team of "Yes 2 Kumoi and Dr. David M. Borja." The journey has been long and it was been filled with commitment from all of you, with passion and personal sacrifice.

No words can express our appreciation, but from our hearts we acknowledge and hold you all very dearly. We wish the very best to you, your families, our communities, and our Commonwealth the very best. Our campaign has been to pass on the message that the ordinary citizens and residents need help affording the high cost of utilities, the need for more adequate medical doctors and supplies in our community health centers, boosting our local economy, and resolving our government Retirement Fund situation. We wish for and desire of our newly elected leaders to include in their plan for the first year in their new offices a "pledge" to implement these goals as their own.

On behalf of my wife, children, grandchildren and siblings, we thank you for your vote of confidence and wish each and everyone the very best.

David M. Borja, DBA

Right direction

The chartered course for the CNMI is very clear and they are:

1. To exhaust every avenue of opportunity to bring economic recovery to the CNMI;
2. Continue the discipline in government spending, thus eliminating wasteful use of government resources;
3. Continue to curtail deficit spending and always have a balanced budget, not spending beyond our means;
4. Privatize the utility corporation, CUC, and pursue/ complete the geothermal project to replace fossil fuel. This will lower power bills by over 60 percent;
5. Expand the agricultural and fishing industries to supply food commodities to the military buildup in the Marianas;
6. Continue to introduce education, tourism, and other industries;
7. Work with the federal government in an atmosphere of trust and respect for our self-government and cultures. As the law firm that filed the *amicus curae* with the federal court on the federalization lawsuit said, "If we do not have right to control our economy then we have no sovereignty." We want to be self-reliant and wean ourselves from federal handouts. Isn't that what we all want for both the CNMI and the federal government?

As the astute and dedicated leader and captain of our ship, the incumbent governor is focused in employing every measure to accomplish the above because the economy is the *life blood* of everything that moves in the CNMI. Without a healthy and vibrant economy, pubic services of all kinds will be paralyzed and we become beggars and will forever be knocking on Uncle Sam's door for handouts. Governor Fitial's expertise in financial management and focused leadership qualities gives us the comfort that he knows what needs to be done and get us out of our economic predicament. There were external factors that contributed to the already ailing CNMI economy four years ago but Governor Fitial and his very able Lt. Governor remain unfazed by these outside threats and dealt with them head on. They know our strengths and weaknesses very well. With this knowledge, they prescribed a blueprint for our economic recovery. They also see opportunities in the midst of hardship that beset our people and are carefully leading us into the path and course of recovery. Have faith my fellow citizens because we will get there. We are all in this rough journey but our resilience shall prevail.

Even Governor Fitial's opponent, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, admitted that we are in the right direction. I will quote from an interview he had with the *Pacific Times* in which he said, "What we need to do is survive and help the Administration, help the Governor and the Lt. Governor." In the same interview, he commended the Fitial administration for trying to reach out to the community for support. "Let's help them by at least trying to propose ideas for us to digest. If we opt to consider the politics of who and what they are, then that is a total disservice to yourself and to the community." So you see, we are not in total disagreement with Rep. Heinz Hofschneider after all.

Marcy C. Santos
Agag, Papago, Saipan

Ben and Eloy are children of the Marianas too

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009, I received a disturbing call from a female cousin of mine who is one of Heinz' top supporters. She informed me that some individuals from San Antonio are not happy with me for asking votes for a "gupalao" (Carolinian) and said that I should be ashamed of myself ("taimamalao"). I was yelled at, scolded, and harassed. I responded that my family (children of the late master carver Tun Segundo Blas) has known Benigno Fitial for many years and that Eloy Inos is a relative. I told her I knew both of them were very intelligent and approachable individuals and are proven leaders.

I do *not* know Mr. Heinz Hofschneider.

I am supporting Ben and Eloy. They are both hardworking, and as children of the Marianas, they are looking out for the future of the children of the Marianas.

It is sad that some people still harbor racial prejudices. In the Marianas, while the indigenous folks are either Chamorro or Carolinian, we are still all "children of the Marianas." We have to stay together and be united.

I call upon the supporters of Heinz and Arnold to disavow this type of negative attacks.

Susana Blas DeLeon Guerrero
Capital Hill, Saipan

The truth about security risk and why

I firmly believe that the U.S. Department of Justice's motion to dismiss Governor Fitial's lawsuit should be honored and the lawsuit dismissed in its entirety. The people of the Commonwealth must realize and understand that for decades we ourselves, the indigenous local U.S. citizens, have been the victims of self-interest greed. The influx of foreign cheap labor from different foreign countries into the CNMI not only posed a security threat to our homeland, but also it tremendously affected our social and cultural well-being as indigenous local U.S. citizens. To my people, I say this: Do not be fooled by this administration's use of indigenous rights to self-governance and the rights to protect our culture and traditions for, ultimately, their version and meaning of culture is the color of money. Fooling and disrespecting our people will never end, unless we all unite to make that serious and necessary change for the sake of our people, our children, and the future generations.

Ask yourselves another question: Who influenced and pressured our lawmakers to keep the minimum wage down? And who fought to keep out the feds? You guessed it.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Kudos

To Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola, and lawmakers: A big thank you and kudos to you all for your support in passing Public Law 16-34 in March of 2009. This law allows all Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to practice autonomously, similar to our colleagues in the United States of America. Having the support of our local lawmakers gives us strength to continue to provide health care services to the community. Now, let us join/celebrate the National Nurse Practitioners Week and let's make this a memorable year.

Luise Quitugua Noisom, NP
Capital Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with iisolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

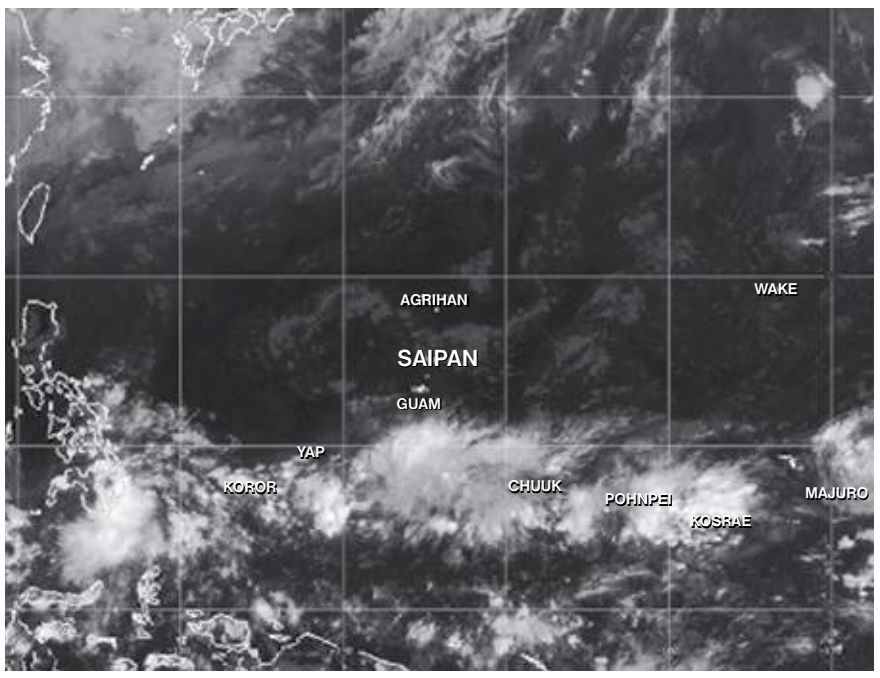
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲90	▼77
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲37	▼19
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼57
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼73
London	Showers	▲54	▼47
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼51
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼55
Miami	Cloudy	▲82	▼71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼42
Osaka	Rain	▲50	▼43
Paris	Rain	▲53	▼49
Pusan	Flurries	▲51	▼29
Rome	Sunny	▲72	▼52
Salem	Rain	▲50	▼39
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲59	▼48
Seoul	Cloudy	▲37	▼23
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲53	▼43
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲57	▼42

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends eastward from a weak circulation located near 4N130E to another circulation near 3N149E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are between the equator and 10N from 130E to 140E. This area includes Palau and Yap. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Guam and west of Chuuk between 5N and 11N from 143E to 152E and across Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 6N155 to 7N162E and across the Marshall Islands between 5N and 10N from 169E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:44 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:46 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:06 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
6:51 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:27 AM	5:56 PM
Wednesday	7:23 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	8:17 AM	7:40 PM
Friday	9:08 AM	8:33PM
Saturday	9:55 AM	9:26 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

CNMI, Guam companies are encouraged to attend US Military Contracting Opportunities Symposium

GUAM—The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas announced yesterday the Guam/CNMI Military Contracting Opportunities Symposium, to be held Nov. 18, from 8am to 5pm, at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe, Saipan.

The symposium will provide Guam and CNMI businesses the chance to learn first-hand from the experts, and to stay current on the latest military contracting opportunities available in this region.

"As we prepare for significant military growth, this is a great opportunity to engage in dialogue, and to discuss partnerships that will enable us to continue to meet mission requirements," said Capt. Peter Lynch, NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer. "We have assembled a cadre of speakers from various sectors of the community on Guam and CNMI to share relevant information and experiences, discuss upcoming contracting opportunities, and address requirements relative to small business subcontracting."

ON THE NET
- www.navfac.navy.mil
- www.commerce.gov.mp

Guest speakers will include representatives from the CNMI government, Joint Region Marianas and NAVFAC Marianas.

Highlights include presentations by NAVFAC Marianas small business advisor, the Guam Contractors Association, the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the CNMI Contractors Association, the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center, and many others.

Individuals interested in attending are asked to register early as seating is limited. Visit www.commerce.gov.mp for complete details and to download a registration form.

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command manages the planning, design, construction, contingency engineering, real estate, environmental, and public works support for U. S. Navy shore facilities around the world. We provide the Navy's forces with the operating, expeditionary, support and training bases they need. NAVFAC is a global organization with an annual volume of business of $13 billion. As a major Navy Systems Command and an integral member of the Navy and Marine Corps team, NAVFAC delivers timely and effective facilities engineering solutions worldwide. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to Chloe Milan Sablan, who is celebrating her 3rd birthday today, Nov. 17! We love you! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our Bubbalicious Donna Kapileo, who is celebrating her 4th birthday today, Nov. 17! We love you to the moon and back! This birthday shoutout comes from your loving family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to Laurina "Nana" Boyer! We love you more than the stars in the sky! God bless and have a wonderful day! Greetings come from Hayden and D.J.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BOY SCOUTS

CNMI Boy Scouts of America District chair David M. Sablan, fifth from left, pose with District Committee Adult members, back row, from left, Jess Muna, Oscar Camacho, Oscar Torres, Wayne Gillespie, Mark Birmingham and William Hunter; front row, from left, Irene Oscar, Cal Reyes (CNMI Island Director), and Cathy Sablan-Cepeda. Other members not in picture are Fr. Nonoy Recaido, Clyde Norita, and Nobert Diaz and Robert Aldan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HEAD START WORKSHOP

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, seated fourth from left; NMC Dean of Community Programs & Services Tee Abraham, seated third from right; and NMC staff pose with participants of recently held workshops sponsored by the PSS Head Start Community Partnership Program. The workshops, both of which focused on the fundamentals of social work, were coordinated by Head Start program manager and NMC regent Maria "Malua" T. Peter, seated third from left. NMC awarded participants 3 Credit Earned Units for each workshop attended.

NMC

TREATMENTS

From Page 1

"He was bleeding everywhere … from the [tracheotomy tube], from his mouth, from his nose," she sobs. "He came in for a cold and he died bleeding to death."

Indalecio, a staff at Saipan Southern High School, was among the parents who sued CHC for negligence leading to a patient's wrongful demise. There are many complaints about the hospital's competence but not all end up in court. Even though very few, the medical malpractice and wrongful death court cases against CHC nonetheless mirror the government-run hospital's ability to provide proper health care to the community.

This article is a first of a series that takes a closer look at CHC, which marks its 23rd anniversary this month. Part 1 covers the medical treatments gone awry. Part 2 reveals the poor conditions and explains why CHC is "at the crossroads of a total breakdown." Part 3 walks the readers through the Emergency Room, the most talked about department in the hospital. Many agreed to be identified for this special report but others feared retaliation if they complained publicly.

Lawsuits tend to disrupt delivery of service at the hospital. Doctors would immediately leave Saipan the moment they are named defendants. Such was the case of Dr. Florian Braig, an ear, eyes, nose and throat specialist, who resigned along with his wife, Dr. Tutet Nguyen, a pediatrician. The resignations happened last month following news reports about Braig facing a couple of medical malpractice suits: one for allegedly burning the face of a patient; the other one was for the death of an 18-year-old following a botched tonsillectomy procedure.

Lawsuits against the hospital have also cost taxpayers money. For instance, records showed the CNMI paid Chimako R. Rauepi $50,000 in December 2002 for losing her dead child at the morgue. Ruby De Guzman got $75,000 in settlement money after she sued CHC when her baby, Marianne, died at birth. Unless the Supreme Court rules in CHC's favor, government will have to cough up $402,113 in damages to Eric David, his wife Tania and their son for a failed vasectomy.

On May 12, 2008, Superior Court Judge David A. Wiseman issued a final judgment awarding Indalecio $50,000, the maximum amount surviving relatives could get in a wrongful death case. The CNMI government has yet to pay Indalecio that amount.

"It's never been about the money. I wanted [the doctor] to admit that it was his fault," Indalecio says in an interview. "My son is the love of my life. I gave up everything to be with him. I quit my job just to stay home and make sure he got the care he needed."

'Screaming'

Christopher Ray Indalecio was no ordinary teenager. At age 6, he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy—a weakness and loss of muscle tissue. Although wheelchair-bound, he graduated from high school with honors in 2002.

On June 24 of that year, a day after her birthday, Indalecio took her 18-year-old son to the Commonwealth's only hospital. He had a cold and was very congested. The doctors decided to admit him.

On July 2, 2002, Christopher Ray underwent a tracheotomy, a surgical procedure that opens up the windpipe to allow air into the lungs. According to court records, he appeared to be doing well after the surgery and was planning on going home. It was decided that he would keep his tracheotomy tube open in the event he had trouble breathing again in the future, given his muscular dystrophy. But the nurse noticed the tube was protruding from the patient's neck and therefore should be adjusted.

On July 15, 2002, Dr. John Yarofalir, a surgeon, was called in to adjust the tube. "My son was crying in pain. He couldn't talk … but you could see his mouth screaming," Indalecio says. She remembers confronting the surgeon. He apologized to her son.

But the following day, Christopher Ray began bleeding profusely. His mother continues between sobs, "I ran—to the ICU—and I called all the nurses. 'Help me. Help me. Something's wrong with Chris' … They started doing CPR, trying to revive him. But he lost so much blood—there's nothing they can do." He died 20 minutes later.

Indalecio says that experience has made her doubt the hospital's capability to treat its patients. "We call [CHC] a butcher shop. You talk to anyone on this island and they are scared to death of CHC," she says. This is why she asked her husband and children that in case she has a stroke or a heart attack, "just let me die. Don't bother to call the ambulance. Don't send me there."

Expensive

There are many allegations of medical malpractice and wrongful death incidents against CHC. But not all purportedly aggrieved patients or families of patients press charges.

One reason is Public Law 15-22, or the Government Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act of 2006. This limits government liability to $50,000 for wrongful death cases and $100,000 for personal injury awards. The cap discourages most lawyers from taking on these cases that entail the review of voluminous medical records, interviews with case witnesses and hiring of expert witnesses. This to-do list makes litigation expensive. Even if the plaintiff wins, there's no guarantee the government will pay, given its deficit.

Clarinda Celis Ngirausui explains that as part of their culture, the indigenous people in the CNMI—Chamorros and Carolinians—often just suffer in silence even though they believe their relatives wrongfully died in the hands of doctors at CHC.

"I don't think it's accepted yet that they can go and sue. Everything is just hush-hush … leave it alone. A lot of people don't speak out," says Ngirausui, a Chamorro. "I can't. If I know something is wrong, I'm going to say something."

Aspirins

Ngirausui took her 10-year-old son Joshua Ike N. Celis to the hospital because "he started complaining that his leg was hurting," she says. Eighteen days later he died.

On Aug. 6, 2007 she sued CHC for her son's alleged wrongful death. The case is still pending with the Superior Court.

Ngirausui's son was admitted to CHC on Oct. 12, 2004 and remained there for two days, according to the complaint. He was diagnosed with rheumatic fever and given antibiotics and aspirin. Rheumatic fever, common in children aged 5 to 15, stems from an untreated or poorly treated strep throat.

"Four aspirins four times a day," claims Ngirausui, is what the doctor gave Celis. "Actually it helped him because it helped him walk. What we didn't know, it was slowly killing him," his mother says.

On Oct. 16, 2004, Ngirausui says an ambulance was called to rush her son to the Emergency Room. "He went into a coma and never woke up for 15 days until we decided to unplug the respiratory," she says.

While in the intensive care unit, Joshua Ike was diagnosed with Reye's Syndrome. This condition, which primarily occurs in children, affects all organs of the body, mostly the brain and liver, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Reye's Syndrome can be acquired by taking aspirin or other medications that contain salicylate while one has a viral infection.

Ngirausui's complaint further alleged that her son was not closely monitored. He was not tested for aspirin toxicity, salicylate levels, and liver function.

"Everybody seemed to think it was okay. I thought everything was fine. We trust our doctors," Ngirausui says. "He was brain dead. You know you never get over the pain. He was my only son."

Ngirausui says she decided to "sue these people [at CHC] so they can learn." She also wants to encourage other parents to come out if they believe their child was a victim of wrongful death.

Not gods

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez admitted that there are "lawsuits that should have been prevented…but because we don't have enough equipment to diagnose patients, medical malpractice happened. And we own up to it."

As long as CHC remained Saipan's primary health care facility, Villagomez said, "we will never avoid medical malpractice because we have no capability that other health care facilities in the mainland have. …This is why we just send patients on medical referral."

While he commiserates with families of victims and understands their reason for suing, Deputy Secretary for Hospital Administration Pedro T. Untalan said, "Doctors are not gods. They are humans just like us."

It all boils down, he said, to doctors having to work 12 hours because there are not enough of them to cover the 24-hour shift. "It's not manual labor that [doctors] are doing; it's all mental. The likelihood of making a mistake on a 12-hour shift is very strong," Untalan said as he renewed his call to CNMI legislators to properly fund the hospital. He asked lawmakers to pass a budget that will increase the salary of doctors to attract U.S.-based specialist-physicians to practice on the island.

"Mistakes happen no matter what," said Dr. Gregory Kotheimer. "The doctors in this institution are good. They are conscientious." Before he began working at CHC, Kotheimer said, he was an expert witness for lawyers in medical malpractice cases in Texas for 15 years.

Ordeal

Anna Leah Castillon, 38, Filipino, has lived to tell her ordeal at the hospital when her swollen appendix ruptured. At first she refused to be identified for this article lest hospital staff refuse to treat her children if they get sick. But her husband, Patrick Castillon, believes she should not worry since their case had already been settled. Department of Finance records showed the Castillons got $17,500 from the government.

On Dec. 25, 2004, Anna Leah Castillon went to the ER with abdominal pain. Doctors diagnosed the patient with food poisoning, but failed to consider her negative urine, blood and stool cultures.

Anna Leah Castillon said doctors gave her a shot of morphine. When the pain subsided she was discharged. She went home thinking the crisis was over—until she peed. "I was screaming in pain. I couldn't stand anymore. My husband had to carry me to the car," she recalls.

Four days after her admission, she had a CT scan. The ultrasound technician mentioned that she might be having appendicitis. But the doctors didn't listen. So they gave the patient laxatives and painkillers and treated her with enemas, a procedure usually used for treating constipation by injecting liquids into the anus.

"But they couldn't explain why my stomach was getting bigger. I look like I am eight months pregnant when in fact I just gave birth three weeks ago," Anna Leah Castillon says. "They just gave me painkillers every four hours."

Over her doctors' objections, Patrick Castillon decided to take his wife to the Philippines.

At St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, Philippines, several doctors gathered around her. The surgeon decided right away that she had ruptured appendicitis after reading her x-ray and CT scan results. Within three hours of landing in Manila, Anna Leah Castillon underwent operation.

"Gangrene was coming out of her appendix," Patrick Castillon says of the doctors' findings. Because her appendix had already ruptured, her intestines were stuck together. Doctors had to remove her entire intestines and put them back together.

"I was traumatized by this whole experience," says Anna Leah Castillon, "Especially every time I see my scar."

To be continued.

House panel wants overhaul of CHC, issues almost 70 directives after oversight hearing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Health, Education and Welfare Committee wants a "complete overhaul" of the Commonwealth Health Center after conducting public and oversight hearings on the agency, and issued almost 70 directives to help improve the agency.

In a 38-page report on the CHC oversight hearing, the committee also asked the Office of the Public Auditor to audit both the $22 million hemodialysis project, and the billing process for contractor Saipan Employment Agency and Services Inc.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), also asked OPA to look into the contract and alleged medical malpractice involving a certain Dr. Ruben P. Arafiles, who is providing services to CNMI patients on Saipan and in the Philippines.

"The committee recommends that CHC hire qualified permanent top and senior management [personnel] and conduct a complete overhaul of the entire hospital, its departments, divisions and units consistent with the directives of this report," the committee said in its report.

Copies of the Special Committee Report 16-2 dated Oct. 29 were distributed in yesterday's House session.

The directives included the development of a management plan to resolve problems identified in the committee's preliminary report on CHC, including the hiring of doctors, eliminating reliance on or reducing medical referrals, and expanding certain facilities.

The committee also required the hospital to draft and submit, within eight weeks, a plan to improve CHC's system of digitizing, storing, maintaining, updating, and accessing medical records.

'Superfluous'

In its report, the committee said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Oct. 20 declaration of a statement of health emergency for the CNMI is "superfluous."

It said the Department of Public Health is already under the direct control of the governor. The governor appoints the secretary of health, who oversees the department.

"The governor could have, and should have, intervened since the inception of the problems at CHC," the committee said.

From April to September 2009, eight physicians, plus two in November, have either resigned or elected not to renew their contract at CHC, along with six registered nurses, one licensed practical nurses, and one nursing assistant.

"The physicians are resigning and leaving much faster than we can replace them," the committee said.

The committee summarized the responses of health officials to the committee's written and oral questions about CHC management, medical supplies and equipment, hospital billing and collections, human resources and recruitment, medical records, customer service, medical referral, emergency room department, surgery department, hemodialysis unit, intensive care unit, radiology and laboratory departments, nursing department, and the psychiatric unit.

In July and August, the committee conducted a survey on health issues among doctors, nurses, employees and patients at CHC.

The committee also held a public hearing on CHC issues at the Legislature on Sept. 22, but not a single health official showed up. On the night of the same day, another public hearing was held at the Garapan Elementary School where community members and some CHC personnel showed up to air their views and concerns on health issues.

The committee also subpoenaed documents and asked health officials to answer more than 230 questions as part of a review into the department's management, billing and collections, hiring of doctors, customer service, and handling of a bloated hemodialysis project, among other things.

On Oct. 14, 16 and 20, the committee held oversight hearings on CHC. Health officials testified at these hearings.

Business

Recession intensifies GenX discontent at work

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GE forms China JV to make airplane electronics

General Electric's aviation unit is teaming with Aviation Industry Corp. of China to develop and market electronic systems for commercial aircraft customers, including the C919 narrow-body aircraft that China hopes will compete with jets made by industry giants Boeing and Airbus. The goal is to launch the new China-based company by mid-2010, subject to regulatory approvals. GE Aviation provides jet engines, parts and systems for current commercial and military aircraft, and the AVIC joint venture will offer electronics and services for future commercial aircraft programs. GE has more than 12,000 employees currently based in China. Financial terms of the partnership weren't disclosed. The signing of the deal came as President Barack Obama landed in Shanghai, kicking off his first trip to China, the world's third-largest economy and the biggest foreign holder of U.S. debt. ***(AP)***

Citigroup sells stake in Japanese call center

NEW YORK (AP)—Citigroup Inc. said Sunday that it is selling its controlling stake in Japan's leading call center operator, Bellsystem24, to private equity firm Bain Capital Partners in a deal that values the operation at $1.1 billion. Under terms of the deal, Citi's private investment unit, Citigroup Capital Partners Japan, will receive $1 billion in cash for its 93.5 percent stake in the call center operator. New York-based Citigroup in October completed the sale of its Japanese brokerage to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. in a $8.7 billion deal that advanced the bank's efforts to restructure after big losses on risky investments.

Study raises new questions about Merck pill Zetia

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A new study raises fresh concerns about Zetia and its cousin, Vytorin—drugs still taken by millions of Americans to lower cholesterol, despite questions raised last year about how well they work. In the study, Zetia failed to shrink build-ups in artery walls while a rival drug, Niaspan, did so significantly. Zetia users also suffered more heart attacks and other problems although the numbers of these events were too small to draw firm conclusions. Zetia "has been on the market for about seven years and we still haven't proven that it improves clinical outcomes," said Dr. Roger Blumenthal, preventive cardiology chief at Johns Hopkins University. The new results will be "very influential" in getting more doctors to turn to Niaspan, he said.

CHICAGO (AP)—They're antsy and edgy, tired of waiting for promotion opportunities at work as their elders put off retirement. A good number of them are just waiting for the economy to pick up so they can hop to the next job, find something more fulfilling and get what they think they deserve. Oh, and they want work-life balance, too.

Sounds like Gen Y, the so-called "entitlement generation," right?

Not necessarily, say people who track the generations. In these hard times, they're also hearing strong rumblings of discontent from Generation X. They're the 32- to 44-year-olds who are wedged between baby boomers and their children, often feeling like forgotten middle siblings—and increasingly restless at work as a result.

"All of a sudden, we've gone from being the young upstarts to being the curmudgeons," says Bruce Tulgan, a generational consultant who's written books about various age groups, including his fellow Gen Xers.

This isn't the first time Gen Xers have faced tough times. They came of age during a recession and survived the dot-com bust of 2000. In recent years, though, more members of the generation—stereotyped early on as jaded individualists—had families or began settling down in other ways. It was time, they thought, to enjoy the rewards of paying some dues.

"We were starting to buy into the system, at least to some extent," Tulgan says, "and then we got the rug pulled out from under us."

Now, in this latest recession, nearly two-thirds of baby boomer workers, ages 50 to 61, say they might have to push back their retirement, according to a recent survey from Pew Research.

Meanwhile, on the other end of the age spectrum are Gen Yers, who are often cheaper to hire and heralded for their coveted high-tech knowledge, even though many Gen Xers consider themselves just as technologically savvy.

"It's so annoying," says Lisa Chamberlain, another Gen Xer who wrote the book "Slackonomics: Generation X in the Age of Creative Destruction." "First, it was always the baby boomers overshadowing everything. Then there was this brief period in the mid-'90s where Gen X was cool.

"Now it's, 'What are the new kids doing?' It's like 'Yo, hello, the Google guys are Gen Xers.'"

They can sound a little whiny. But there's also some evidence that Gen Xers really are being taken for granted at work.

One survey done this year for Deloitte Consulting LLP, for instance, found that nearly two-thirds of executives at large companies were most concerned about losing Gen Y employees, while less than half of them had similar concerns about losing Gen Xers.

The assumption is often that Gen Yers are the least loyal and most mobile, says Robin Erickson, a manager with Deloitte's human capital division.

However, she points out that a companion survey of employees found that only about 37 percent of Gen Xers said they planned to stay in their current jobs after the recession ends, compared with 44 percent of Gen Yers, 50 percent of baby boomers and 52 percent of senior citizen workers who said the same.

AP

Jon Anne Willow, co-publisher of ThirdCoastDigest.com, an online arts and culture site, is seen in her office Friday, Nov. 13, 2009, in Milwaukee.

AP

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, centre, makes the Leaders Declaration at the APEC Leaders Summit in Singapore, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009.

APEC urges new growth model, climate pact progress

SINGAPORE (AP)—Open trade and people-centered strategies are key for sustained, stable growth, President Barack Obama and Asia-Pacific leaders said Sunday, pledging to persist with stimulus spending until a global recovery is assured.

The leaders wrapped up the annual meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum with a joint pledge to resist protectionism. They also endorsed policies to encourage more environmentally friendly growth that is "balanced, inclusive and sustainable, to ensure a durable recovery that will create jobs and benefit our people."

Growth led mainly by American consumption and borrowing and Chinese exports is not sustainable in the long term, Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore's prime minister, told reporters. Neither is relying on debt-backed stimulus spending to spur demand.

"We know that the old formulas are not going to work as well in the future because it's a different world," he said. "You have to find another balance."

But despite calls for faster progress in world trade talks and efforts to craft a worldwide global warming treaty, the leaders offered no specific, new initiatives for either one—typical of the forum's nonbinding nature.

The World Wildlife Fund's Global Climate Initiative expressed disappointment that an earlier push for a 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050 was omitted from the leaders' final statement.

"Leaders have to take the bull by the horns, and finally tackle the difficult questions, instead of constantly avoiding them," spokeswoman Diane McFadzien said in a statement.

The leaders, who met over breakfast to discuss global warming, committed only to working toward "an ambitious outcome" at climate talks in Copenhagen, Denmark, next month.

But Lee said he believed some countries were holding their cards for later. "This is not an occasion for negotiating climate change," he said.

The annual meeting of APEC, which was founded 20 years ago to promote closer economic ties in the diverse, wide-flung region, focused mainly on ways to ensure the recovery from the worst economic crisis since the 1930s takes hold and endures.

AP Source: GM to begin repaying aid by year-end

WASHINGTON (AP)—General Motors Co. will begin paying back $6.7 billion in U.S. government loans by the end of 2009 and could pay off that full amount by 2011, four years ahead of schedule, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The government debt represents about 13 percent of the $52 billion that U.S. taxpayers have invested in General Motors, the majority of which was exchanged for a 61 percent ownership stake in the company.

GM will announce the repayment plan Monday when it releases its preliminary third-quarter earnings results, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The person was not authorized to speak publicly about the plan ahead of the announcement.

Even if GM pays back these loans early, government investigators have questioned whether taxpayers will recoup their full investment in GM and fellow bailed-out automaker Chrysler Group LLC. GM, which exited bankruptcy as a new privately held company on July 10, has said it hopes to sell stock to the public late next year so taxpayers can recoup at least part of their remaining investment.

However, the Government Accountability Office said in a report issued earlier this month that the automakers' share values would have to soar to levels they didn't even approach when they were healthier for the $80 billion in taxpayer loans to be completely repaid.

Obama unlikely to push China hard on currency

WASHINGTON (AP)—In his visit to Beijing this week, President Barack Obama is expected to tread lightly when pressing China to let its currency rise against the dollar. Doing so would benefit the U.S. economy by making American-made goods cheaper in China, but Obama is reluctant to upset Beijing.

China is the No. 1 lender to the U.S. at a time when the latest annual budget deficit hit a record $1.42 trillion. That makes for a lot of Treasurys to be sold. China has expressed concerns that the falling dollar threatens the value of its existing U.S. holdings.

The United States also needs China's help in dealing with foreign policy threats. Those include curbing the nuclear ambitions of North Korea and Iran.

There's another reason for a gentler U.S. stance: Analysts believe China already signaled last week that it was preparing to let its currency rise against the dollar. That shift could eventually aid U.S. manufacturers. It might also feed a U.S. economic rebound.

But China is also applying some pressure on the U.S. about its currency.

Nation

Chinese-Americans see Obama's trip in unique light

AP
U.S. President Barack Obama arrives at Pudong International Airport in Shanghai, China, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009.

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP NATIONAL WRITER

As President Barack Obama visits China seeking to balance a seesawing relationship, Chinese-Americans embody the challenges facing the giants of East and West.

They have as many different feelings about their ancestral home—hope, indifference, pride, pain—as there are characters in the Chinese language. Yet many share a conviction that is both logical and personal: The destinies of China and America are inseparable.

"Each one is dependent on the other to make their economy strong," said David Zhang, a New York City physician who immigrated to America at age 25. "The U.S. cannot leave China, and China cannot leave the U.S. It's symbiotic, like an organism."

The Great Recession has bound the two nations even tighter, and given China greater influence. America borrowed unprecedented sums to resuscitate itself. China, which needs American consumers to fuel its growth, supplied much of that cash and is America's largest foreign lender.

"It's like that little brother you always used to pick on, and now he's lending you money," said Nanci Zhang (no relation to David), a 22-year-old Los Angeles resident. "But you can't quite conceive of one brother without the other."

Nanci Zhang was born in Beijing and moved with her parents to the United States when she was 3. In her American schools, she remembers China's long history being celebrated while its present was ignored. Now she sees her homeland coming to America's economic rescue, and "it's kind of validating."

About three million U.S. residents are of Chinese descent, according to a 2008 Census estimate. About a third were born here, a third are naturalized citizens, and a third have arrived in the past few years, said Cheng Li, a China scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

David Zhang came to America in 1985 looking for freedom and opportunity. "What I dream of here I couldn't even dream of in China: cars, a house, a good, decent job. I could dream that here, and I realized it. Now in China, all these things we accomplished, they have accomplished."

Dozens of Gitmo detainees finally get their day in court

WASHINGTON (AP)—In courtrooms barred to the public, dozens of terror suspects are pleading for their freedom from the Guantanamo Bay prison, sometimes even testifying on their own behalf by video from the U.S. naval base in Cuba.

Complying with a Supreme Court ruling last year, 15 federal judges in the U.S. courthouse here are giving detainees their day in court after years behind bars half a world away from their homelands.

The judges have found the government's evidence against 30 detainees wanting and ordered their release. That number could rise significantly because the judges are on track to hear challenges from dozens more prisoners.

Scooped up along with hardcore terrorist suspects in Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere, these 30 detainees stand in stark contrast to the 10 prisoners whom the Obama administration targeted for prosecution Friday for plotting the Sept. 11 and other terrorist attacks. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the professed mastermind of 9/11, and four of his alleged henchmen are headed for a federal civilian trial in New York; five others, including a top suspect in the bombing of the USS Cole, will be tried by a military commission.

More detainees are expected to soon be added to the prosecution list. But there will still be plenty of cases left among the 215 detainees now at Guantanamo to keep the judges here busy as they work to clear a legal morass the Bush administration created after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Dems, GOP split on NY trials of alleged terrorists

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bringing those accused in the Sept. 11 attacks to New York for trial would increase the security threat to the city and give radical Islamists a platform to propagate their ideology, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said Sunday.

Giuliani's view that the Obama administration is erring in trying Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others near the site of the World Trade Center was echoed by other Republicans on the Sunday news programs.

Democrats defended the decision of Attorney General Eric Holder to try the five in New York where more than 2,000 civilians were killed on Sept. 11. If someone murders Americans in this country, they should be tried in the U.S., said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"I don't think we should run and hide and cower. Let's use our system," Leahy said.

Republicans argued that the five are war criminals and should be tried in the military tribunals where other Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detainees will be judged. They disputed administration arguments that these five were conspirators to a crime committed on American soil.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hudson 'Miracle' pilot criticizes book's take

NEW YORK (AP)—The pilot who guided his disabled plane to a safe emergency landing in the Hudson River says that a new book that underscores the role of the jet's automation technology in the landing is inaccurate. Capt. Chesley Sullenberger said Sunday that the book, "Fly By Wire," by William Langewiesche (lang-a-VEE'-sha) greatly overstates how much it mattered" that the Airbus A320 featured an automated cockpit. Sullenberger ditched US Airways Flight 1549 on Jan. 15 when geese strikes killed the power in the jet's engines. All 155 on board survived.

Idaho boy kills bear that wouldn't leave porch

DRIGGS, Idaho (AP)—An 11-year-old Idaho boy fatally shot a black bear on his family's front porch after he said it wouldn't leave. The boy was at his home near Driggs, just west of the Idaho-Wyoming border, with his younger sisters last Wednesday when the bear showed up. He says he couldn't shoo the animal away, so he went and got a gun and shot it. Doug Petersen, a conservation officer with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, says the boy and his family probably won't be in any trouble, because the agency had received multiple complaints about a black bear in the area. The bear had been hanging around a transfer station and getting into garbage cans and bird feeders.

Authorities acting on tip search for missing girl

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Authorities acted on a tip Sunday and searched a wide area in south-central North Carolina trying to find a 5-year-old girl reported missing by her mother, who has been charged with human trafficking and child abuse involving prostitution. Capt. Charles Kimble of the Fayetteville Police Department said several agencies spent the day looking for signs of Shaniya Davis between Spring Lake and Sanford, which are about 25 miles apart. Kimble would not elaborate on what information officers had received. They suspended the search at dark. The area included woods and some homes, police said. "We're following up on a tip. It seems to be good, so we're out there looking," Kimble said.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

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SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 04, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission
Special Business Meeting
5:00 p.m. Friday November 20, 2009
Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office
Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan.

Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday November 20, 2009 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda can be found on the Chamber website under Public Utilities.

Agenda

1. **Call to order – quorum**
2. **Approval of minutes of September 3, 2009 meeting**
3. **Docket 09-1: CUC Electric Division:**
   - Renewable Portfolio Standards Study
   - LEAC rate [April – September 2010]:
     - Minimum filing requirements
     - CUC filing
     - Georgetown report
   - CDA agreement order compliance
4. **Docket 09-2: CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions:**
   - Hearing examiner report and proposed order re FY10 rate relief and interim financial plan
5. **Telecommunications:**
   - Administrative order – procedure for arbitration of interconnection disputes.
6. **Administrative business:**
   - Ratification of October 8, 2009 Administrative Order
   - FY09 Operational Report – 4 CMC § 8408
   - FY09 Accounting Report – 4 CMC § 8422[d]
   - Administrator, office and website
   - Assessment order for FY10 administrative expense budget
7. **Other business**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Maps (Rezones)

We ask your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheet 23 (As Terlaje – next to NMC) and sheet 26 (along As Perdido road) from Village Residential to Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held:

Date: Monday, November 30, 2009
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at Zoning Office, 2nd Floor Joeten Building, DanDan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps. Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:00 pm, Tuesday, December 1, 2009. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Asia

In China, Obama calls freedoms 'universal rights'

SHANGHAI (AP)—Pressing for freedoms on China's own turf, President Barack Obama said Monday that individual expression is not an American ideal but a universal right that should be available to all.

In his first presidential trip to Asia, Obama lauded cooperative relations with China but sought to send a clear message to his tightly controlled host country. Just as Obama said few problems can be solved unless U.S. and China work together, he prodded China to accept what he called "universal rights."

"We do not seek to impose any system of government on any other nation," Obama said at a town hall at a museum here, believed to be the first such forum held by a U.S. president on Chinese soil. "But we also don't believe that the principles that we stand for are unique to our nation."

He added: "These freedoms of expression, and worship, of access to information and political participation—we believe they are universal rights. They should be available to all people, including ethnic and religious minorities, whether they are in the United States, China or any nation."

AP

U.S. President Barack Obama points to a member of the audience as he takes questions during a town hall style event with Chinese youth at the Museum of Science and Technology in Shanghai, Monday, Nov. 16, 2009.

Obama sought to find a political balance with China, addressing long-standing U.S. concerns about human rights but extending his hand to a critically important partner on economic and security matters.

"More is gained when great powers cooperate than when they collide," he said in his opening statement.

In one form or another, though, the theme of free expression kept emerging.

"I'm a big supporter of noncensorship," Obama said in the course of answering one question about Internet usage. Given where Obama was speaking, such a comment was pointed. China has the world's largest population of Internet users—and the world's most extensive system of Web monitoring and censorship.

Apology for kids shipped from Britain to colonies

LONDON (AP)—As many as 150,000 poor British children were shipped off to the colonies over three and a half centuries, often taken from struggling families under programs intended to provide them with a new start—and the Empire with a supply of sturdy white workers.

Forty years after the program stopped, Britain and Australia are saying sorry to the child migrants, who were promised a better life only to suffer abuse and neglect thousands of miles from home.

The British government said Sunday that Prime Minister Gordon Brown would apologize for child migrant programs that sent boys and girls as young as 3 to Australia, Canada and other former colonies. Many ended up in institutions where they were physically and sexually abused, or were sent to work as farm laborers.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will offer his own apology Monday to the child migrants, as well as to the "forgotten Australians," children who suffered in state care during the last century.

Sandra Anker, who was 6 when she was sent to Australia in 1950, said the British government has "a lot to answer for."

"We've suffered all our lives," she told the BBC. "For the government of England to say sorry to us, it makes it right—even if it's late, it's better than not at all."

The British government has estimated that a total of 150,000 British children may have been shipped abroad between 1618—when a group was sent to the Virginia Colony—and 1967, most of them from the late 19th century onwards.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Aquino keeps lead in Philippine election survey

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The son of the late president and democracy icon Corazon Aquino was the most favored candidate in a survey on next year's presidential elections, an independent pollster said Monday. Sen. Benigno "Nonoy" Aquino III was the top choice of 44 percent of respondents, followed by Sen. Manny Villar, the wealthiest legislator who made his fortune as a real estate developer, with 19 percent, according to Pulse Asia's nationwide survey of 1,800 adults. The October face-to-face survey has a margin of error of 2 percentage points. In a separate survey last month by Social Weather Stations, 60 percent of respondents named the 49-year-old Aquino among "the three best successors" to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, followed by Villar with 18 percent. Arroyo is barred by the constitution from seeking a second term.

Bombing at police station in Pakistan kills 3

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A pickup truck laden with explosives attacked a police station in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing at least 3 people in an area that has become the focal point for militant retaliation against a recent army offensive. Suspected militants have killed more than 300 civilians and security personnel in the last month in an attempt to weaken the country's resolve to continue the military operation in the tribal area of South Waziristan, where al-Qaida and Taliban leaders are believed to be hiding. Police opened fire on the pickup truck as it approached a checkpoint in front of a police station in Badh Ber, but the driver was able to detonate his explosives, said Liaqat Ali Khan, the senior police chief in the main northwestern city of Peshawar.

NKorea cargo ship arrives in SKorea after skirmish

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean cargo ship arrived in a South Korean port Monday, showing that trade between the rival countries is continuing despite their bloody naval skirmish last week. The ship was scheduled to unload 1,750 tons of silica at Incheon Port, west of Seoul, following its departure from a North Korean port last Thursday, two days after the neighboring countries clashed along their disputed western sea border. North Korea had warned it would take unspecified military action to defend itself following the clash—their first at sea in seven years. A senior South Korean military officer said the fighting left one North Korean crew member dead and three others wounded. South Korea suffered no casualties.

World

US, Russia say sanctions a posssibility for Iran

SINGAPORE (AP)—President Barack Obama said Sunday that "time is running out" for Iran to sign on to a deal to ship its enriched uranium out of the country for further processing, and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said he still hopes to persuade Iran to send its enriched uranium to his country.

If that plan fails, however, Medvedev said other options remain on the table. While he did not cite those options, the Russian leader has said further sanctions against Iran were possible if it did not open its nuclear program to inspections to prove it was not trying to build a bomb.

Obama and Medvedev, meeting on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Cooperation Council, said Iran was one of the topics they discussed.

"Unfortunately, so far at least, Iran appears to have been unable to say yes to what everyone acknowledges is a creative and constructive approach," Obama said. "We are now running out of time with respect to that approach."

Russia and the U.S. are among six nations leading an effort to ensure Iran does not use what it maintains is a civilian nuclear program to develop an atomic bomb. But Moscow also has close ties with Iran and is helping build its first nuclear power plant, forcing Russia into a delicate balancing act.

Fears about the nature of Iran's nuclear program were heightened in September with the disclosure of a uranium enrichment facility near the holy city of Qom. U.N. inspectors visited the site last month, as the United States continued quiet preparations for the possibility of stiffening U.N. sanctions or those the United States has applied on its own.

Kosovo holds peaceful lst vote since independence

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)—Kosovo's first elections since independence from Serbia ended peacefully Sunday, with some minority Serbs ignoring a call to boycott and casting ballots alongside ethnic Albanians.

The elections for city council and mayors in 36 municipalities were seen as a key test of the fledgling state's viability following its contested February 2008 declaration of independence.

Though results were not expected for hours after polls closed, party sympathizers were celebrating across Kosovo by honking their car horns, waving party flags and setting off fire crackers.

No major instances of unrest or fraud allegations were reported, though the run-up had been marred by tensions between rival ethnic Albanian parties, as well as the possibility of a boycott from the Serb minority. Stones were thrown Wednesday at Prime Minister Hashim Thaci's convoy, and there was an apparent assassination attempt Thursday on an opposition mayoral candidate.

Thaci had urged the country's 100,000 Serbs to ignore calls by Belgrade and the Serb Orthodox Church to boycott the vote, calling it a key test for his new nation. So far, 63 countries have recognized Kosovo, including the United States and most European countries. Serbia has vowed to block further recognition and has Russia's support.

"It's great step for Kosovo," Thaci told The Associated Press after voting in downtown Pristina in the company of his wife and 10-year-old son.

Iran media plans stir talk of elite force at helm

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The portfolio of Iran's Revolutionary Guard keeps on growing.

Its troops watch over nuclear facilities, its rocket scientists enlarge Iran's missile arsenal and its engineers have taken on a rail line as their latest big-ticket project. Could media mogul be next?

Sometime early next year, a new voice is expected to join Iran's state-sanctioned media blitz: a full-service news agency with video, photos and print.

The arrival of another government-backed news outlet is not much of a surprise. It fits into Iran's two-pronged media strategy: controlling its message with a constant flow of statements, trial balloons and news items while trying to muzzle those who disagree, including new plans to now police the Internet for opposition sites.

What's being closely watched is how much control could be taken by the Revolutionary Guard—already the most powerful single institution in the country.

"The war of ideas will be intensified," said Ehsan Ahrari, an analyst on regional affairs at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu.

A brief announcement last month on plans for the news operation, called Atlas, gave no hint of who will be in charge.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bingo! In quieter Baghdad, beloved game is back

BAGHDAD (AP)—It's Saturday night at the Alwiyah Club, and 21-year-old Sarah al-Kimackchy is doing the hip thing—playing bingo. The streets outside may still not be as safe as they once were, and the occasional deadly bombing still rips through Baghdad, but al-Kimackchy is here with her family and entirely fixated on her game, wondering if tonight will finally be her night. "Since I was a young girl I've played bingo and even till today, I've never won!" she says. After years of bombings and killings, Baghdad's 85-year-old elite social club is making a comeback—and there's no better evidence than the open bar, the deafening Arabic pop music and the Saturday night bingo games that draw hundreds of fun-seekers, from teenagers to grandparents.

Frustrated Palestinians to appeal to UN for state

JERUSALEM (AP)—A Palestinian drive to ask the U.N. Security Council to endorse a state unilaterally, put forward by a top negotiator Sunday, appeared more an expression of frustration with U.S. and Israeli policies and stalled peace talks than a real effort to go it alone. A resolution for a Palestinian state could face a veto from the U.S., Israel's main ally. But if the Security Council approved it, consequences could be even more severe. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the move, warning Israel would retaliate. "There is no substitute for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians," Netanyahu said in a speech at the Saban Forum in Jerusalem Sunday evening, saying he wanted a full peace agreement with them.

No. 2 fugitive mob boss nabbed in Sicily

ROME (AP)—Police captured one of Sicily's top Mafia fugitives on Sunday, dealing a stiff blow to the island's Cosa Nostra crime syndicate, Italian officials said. Convicted mobster Domenico Raccuglia, who has been on the run for 15 years, now faces several life sentences for crimes including the murder of a rival's 9-year-old son, whose body was then thrown into a vat of acid. Raccuglia was arrested in an apartment in a tiny town near Trapani, where he is believed to have had his power base, police said. Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni described Raccuglia as Cosa Nostra's No. 2, and hailed his arrest as delivering "one of the hardest blows" to the Sicilian Mafia in the last few years.

Overdrive

2010 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT Z71

Awful pretty but still a workhorse

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

I'd buy it chrome-free.

The chrome wheels and gas cap, the chrome rails on the cargo bed and the chrome-edged running boards were pretty. But they made little sense in the dust and mud and along the rocky paths where I drove the 2010 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Z71, a four-wheel-drive pickup engineered for off-road use.

The cacophonous chrome cladding, a part of the "Z71 appearance package," was like gilding on a dump truck, which reflects how I used the Silverado 1500 LT Z71 at local landfills.

The pretty stuff meant more work of the marginally productive kind —covering the chrome cargo rails to prevent scratching, washing and polishing the chrome wheels, removing gunk from the chrome-edged running boards.

Many of the real truck people I met in my nearly month-long life with the fancily dressed Silverado Z71 shook their heads. Their assessment was that I was a truck poseur, an escapee from an office cubicle more interested in making a statement about reclaimed manhood than I was about doing real work.

It became clear to me why Chevrolet's parent corporation, General Motors, offers 31 versions of the Silverado 1500 pickup, down from 37 models in the 2009 model year. Pickups are bought for style and function, one more than the other or in equal parts, depending on your station in life.

There are pickups for poseurs, trucks with sparkling exterior options generally eschewed by real truck people. There are single-cab versions, "standard cabs," which are bare-bones work trucks consigned to a hard life of hauling and pulling, largely unconcerned about aesthetics.

There are the extended-cab models, such as the Silverado 1500 LT Z71 driven for this column, which come with two small rear doors allowing access to the rear cabin. There are crew-cab models with four full side doors —big doors with handles that swing forward in the same direction.

THE WASHINGTON POST.

General Motors offers 31 versions of the 2010 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pickup, down from 37 models in the 2009 model year. The crew-cab models have four full side doors, big doors with handles that swing forward in the same direction.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE BOTTOM LINE
Forget the chrome. This is a hard-nosed work truck that comes with all sorts of useful stuff on the inside, including the OnStar emergency communication and navigation system, laptop hookups and other infotainment connectivity. It's also one of the best-driving trucks on the market.

2010 MODEL CHANGES
Little has changed for 2010, which means, for the budget-minded, it might make more sense to shop for a 2009 model. Just go easy on the options, of which there are many in the Silverado line.

SUGGESTION
GM should consider reducing Silverado production costs by reducing/consolidating options. Do we really need chrome-clad rails on the cargo bay?

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Excellent highway marks in all three. But this is a big truck, which means it could be nerve-wrecking for you and fellow motorists in tight city traffic.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Big, bold and powerful. City drivers generally stay out of the way of this one.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The 2010 Silverado 1500 LT Z71 is a front-engine, four-wheel-drive, extended-cab pickup truck with two full side doors, two small rear-access doors and a short cargo bed. Construction is body on frame. It is designed for off-road use.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
In the tested application, the Silverado comes with a flexible-fuel, 6.2-liter V-8 that develops 295 horsepower at 5,600 rotations per minute and 305 foot-pounds of torque at 4,600 RPM. The engine is mated to a four-speed automatic transmission.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for six people. Payload, onboard capacity, is 1,714 pounds. It can tow a trailer weighing 10,400 pounds. Fuel capacity is 26 gallons of regular gasoline or E85 ethanol, or gasoline/E85 mix.

MILEAGE
Using gasoline only and often carrying heavy loads, I averaged a combined 15 miles per gallon in city-highway travel.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes ventilated front-disc/rear-disc brakes. This column prefers rear discs all around. Also standard are four-wheel antilock brakes, electronic brake force distribution for extra protection in panic stops, electronic stability and traction control, front side air bags, and rear head air bags.

PRICE
Base price on the 2010 Chevrolet Silverado LT is $32,275. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $30,016. Price as tested is $37,490, including $4,220 in options (Z71 appearance package, 6.2-liter V-8 with accompanying trailer-tow equipment, satellite radio) and a $995 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $34,725. A $1,000 rebate is available at this writing. Prices are sourced from Chevrolet, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

Added to that dizzying array are the following mixes: bed sizes (short, 78.7 inches; and long, 97.8 inches); engines (4.3-liter, 195-horsepower V-6, preferred by people more interested in fuel economy than pulling and hauling; a 4.8-liter, 295-horsepower V-8; a 5.3-liter, 315-horsepower V-8; and the optional 6.2-liter, 403-horsepower Vortec V-8, used for this column, which is capable off running on gasoline or 85 percent ethanol); and interiors ranging from the workaday cloth and vinyl of the tested 1500 LT Z71 to the plusher-than-thou, leather and wood grain interiors of LTZ models.

In the good old days, when regular gasoline was flowing at $2 a gallon and less, when easy credit made all things possible and when jobs were careers, Chevrolet sold all of those models, and did so en masse. But those days are gone, along with some of the models favored by poseurs.

The oddly outfitted Silverado 1500 LT Z71, chrome on the outside and practical as heck on the inside, remains. And after nearly a month behind the wheel of that truck, it's easy to see why real truck people love it minus the pretty stuff. It's a bona fide workhorse, capable of hauling 1,714 pounds onboard and pulling a trailer weighing 10,400 pounds.

It is as much at home in the mud and muck as it is on the highway, where it moves so smoothly and competently, with such easy acceleration thanks to that optional 6.2-liter V-8, it's easy to forget you are in a pickup truck.

GM boasts that its full-size Silverado models get the best mileage in the full-size pickup segment. Perhaps they do, as a group, when available technology such as dual-mode gas-electric hybrids, automatic cylinder deactivation, and flexible fueling systems using ethanol are used.

But I found little to cheer about on that score with a real-world, gasoline-only performance (because I didn't go out of my way in pursuit of E85 ethanol) of 14 miles per gallon in the city and 18 miles per gallon on the highway, powered by the 6.2-liter, 403-horsepower V-8 in the test truck.

Still, I fell madly in love with the Silverado 1500 LT Z71. It did so much work, moved so much stuff without grumble or rumble, I wanted to adopt it as a member of the family.

Ford says it sold record number of Fusion sedans

AP

In this Nov. 17, 2008 file photo, the 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid is seen at the Ford Product Design Center in Dearborn, Mich.

DETROIT (AP)—Ford Motor Co. said that its Fusion midsize sedan has already broken the model's annual sales record even though U.S. auto sales have dropped 25 percent.

Ford sold 151,137 Fusions through Wednesday, beating the full-year sales record of 149,552 set in 2007, the company said in a statement.

Fusion sales through the first 10 months of the year were up 15 percent from the same period in 2008, according to Autodata Corp.

The Fusion was the top-selling car made by a Detroit automaker through October.

The Fusion is made at Ford's factory in Hermosillo, Mexico. It gets up to 34 miles per gallon (14.5 kilometers per liter) on the highway when equipped with a four-cylinder engine and six-speed automatic transmission.

A gas-electric hybrid version gets up to 41 miles per gallon (17.5 kilometers per liter) in the city.

The car's base price is just under $20,000 including shipping.

Even at record levels, the Fusion's sales numbers still lag behind the top-selling midsize cars in the U.S. Through October, Toyota Motor Corp. sold 294,493 Camry and Solara cars, while Honda Motor Co. sold 244,579 Accords.

The Fusion and its Mercury twin, the Milan, have received good quality rankings from outside ratings groups. Four-cylinder versions of the cars finished second in the family car category, beaten only by Toyota's Prius gas-electric hybrid, in Consumer Reports magazine's auto rankings.

Life & Style

'Twilight' hunks part of film's heartthrob history

AP

From left to right, actors Taylor Lautner, Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson pose for the photographers prior to the UK fan party of their new film 'New Moon' in London, Wednesday Nov. 11, 2009.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fifteen-year-old Chloe Bates is in love.

A 10th-grader at an all-girls Catholic school, she lights up when she talks about her handsome 17-year-old honey. Chloe doesn't know too many boys, so she still gets a nervous, buzzy feeling whenever she thinks about HIM. Her friends know all about this guy—he's a regular text and telephone topic between school, homework and dance practice.

Chloe keeps a few pictures of him on her bedroom wall, scattered among snapshots of her and her friends. She also writes about him in her journal. But she can't really get close to him. It's like he doesn't know she exists.

Chloe is in love with Taylor Lautner, one of the hunky stars of the "Twilight" films. And she's not alone.

Girls have been falling in love with movie stars since the dawn of cinema. When teenagers became Tinseltown's prime marketing target, Hollywood delivered handsome heartthrobs any girl could love.

James Dean. Frankie Avalon. David Cassidy. Rick Springfield. Johnny Depp. There are teen icons for every generation. For Chloe and millions of girls around the world, it's Lautner and Robert Pattinson of "New Moon," the latest installment in the "Twilight" series.

These girls aren't just experiencing a movie-star crush, they're participating in a uniquely female rite of passage: The birth of romantic fantasy. And today's technology—online fan forums, Twitter, an endless Web stream of photos and videos—lets them get closer than ever.

Before real boyfriends and first kisses, girls' imaginary relationships with their heartthrobs provide a precursor to adult romance—a love before they know what love might be.

"They're practicing feelings of love and attachment and attraction and romance," says Los Angeles psychologist Wendy Walsh, whose own 11-year-old daughter also loves Lautner. "These are all new feelings, and what a safe way to play them out—in the privacy of their own room with a poster of Taylor Lautner."

The "Twilight" series itself is about first love. "New Moon" centers on Bella Swan, an ordinary teenager in love with the mysterious Edward Cullen (Pattinson), who comes from a family of vampires. Edward is romantic and otherworldly, and though he literally hungers for her, he's gentle and protective. But he leaves and Bella finds comfort with her loyal, longtime friend Jacob Black (Lautner), whom she later discovers belongs to a lineage of werewolves.

"It would be so fun to be Bella," Chloe says wistfully. "I love the idea of having two super-hot mythical creatures fighting over me. I just think that would be incredible."

Chloe hasn't had a real boyfriend yet, but she thinks Lautner would be perfect because he's "that fun, hang out, let's-play-video-games kind of guy that I think would be really fun right now."

Like practically everyone at school, Chloe has read all four novels in the "Twilight" series. She spotted Lautner when she saw the film last year and recognized him from a kids' movie she'd seen a few years earlier.

"Now he's hot," she says. "He's really hot."

Besides his looks, Chloe loves the character he plays: A kid-next-door type who's sweet, funny and just a tad awkward.

"I like him because I can feel like that might actually happen, like this guy could be real," she says.

Pattinson is really hot, too, but Chloe finds his character's infinite devotion to Bella "kind of unrealistic."

Fans of the series fall on two sides: Team Edward and Team Jacob. Chloe aligns firmly with the latter, but "it's pretty much half and half at my school," she says.

Each has his charms. On screen, Pattinson plays a dashing vampire. Off-screen, the British actor is shy and soft-spoken, humbled by all the "Twilight" attention. He's 23, lanky and pale, with thick, tousled hair he constantly runs his fingers through.

Lautner is buff and bronzed, with a gregarious personality, dark eyes and an easy smile. To reprise his character in "New Moon," he packed on more than 20 pounds of chiseled physique.

Pattinson and Lautner may be slightly sexier than teen idols past, but they're cut from the same teen-heartthrob cloth as their predecessors: Smooth-faced stars who seem wholesome—and just a touch away from attainable.

Heidi Hurst, executive editor of teen pinup magazine Tiger Beat, notes that since the magazine was established in 1965, the guys on its pages have been

See TWILIGHT on Page 20

IN LOVING MEMORY

LEOPOLDO L. NARAJA

Better known as "Faddo"
Born to Life – October 16, 1927
Born to Eternal Life - November 11, 2009

In his new life he now joins his:

Father: †Lucas A. Naraja
Mother: †Christita L. Naraja
Parents In-Law: †Jesus Castro Camacho
†Rita Reyes Sablan Camacho
Brothers: †Teodoro L. Naraja
†Marcelino L. Naraja
Brothers/Sisters In-Laws:
†Anunciacion S./Jesus M. Palacios
†Antonina C./Miguel P. Tenorio
†Theodora S. Camacho
†Juana C. Pinaula
†Jesusa S. Camacho
†Vicente S. Camacho
†Antonio S. Camacho
†Vicente S. Camacho
†Antonio S. Camacho
† Ignacio S./Rosa T. Camacho
†Clark A. Toy

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Thomasa Camacho Naraja

Children/Spouses and their children:
Frances N./Jesse B.Yumul
Ralph / Joy (Vincent Jesse Sablan, Railee)
Rep. Ray / Marites (DJ, Daniel Ethan, Devin, Franchesca)
Dante / Liela (Ayden)
Reina (Rico)

Presiding Judge Robert C./Frances DLG. Naraja
Nikita (Lorenzo Robert), Matilde, Robert Jr.,
Thomasa, Leopoldo Lucas

Christy N./Jerry P. Kintol
Matthew, Nathan, Justin, Margaret, Ben

Sister: Adriana N. Sobrero & Family

Brothers: Clemente L. Naraja & Family
Esmeraldo L. Naraja & Family
Roman L. Naraja & Family
Eusebio L. Naraja & Family

Sisters-in-law: Ana C. Toy & son
Antonia C./Fermin Sakisat & Family

Brother-in-law: Jose S. Pinaula & Family

Caregiver: Yolanda San Juan

Special thanks: Roger Rosario
Louis Naraja
Dominador Naraja
CHC Doctors & Nurses

He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended families and friends.

Nightly mass is being offered at San Roque Church at 6:00pm. Rosary will follow immediately after the mass at 7:00pm.

On Thursday, November 19, 2009, his remains will be escorted at 7:30am from Nuestra Señora de la Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by a Christian Burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thomasa Camacho Naraja,
Children & Families

'2012' has worldwide box-office bang of $225M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Doom spelled dollars at the box office as the global-disaster tale "2012" opened at No. 1 domestically with $65 million and pulled in $225 million worldwide.

The Sony Pictures action saga tells the story of a scramble to save remnants of humanity aboard giant arks as the earth's crust shifts and flood waters pour over most of the planet. With a cast led by John Cusack, Danny Glover and Chiwetel Ejiofor, "2012" was directed by doomsday specialist Roland Emmerich ("Independence Day," "The Day After Tomorrow").

Overseas, "2012" did $17.2 million in France, $15.3 million in Russia, $9.9 million in South Korea and $8.1 million in Spain.

Domestically, "2012" came in just shy of the $68.7 million opening weekend for "The Day After Tomorrow." But Sony reported that its global total was the best ever for an original movie not based on an established franchise, brand or best-selling novel.

1. "**2012**," $65 million.
2. "**Disney's A Christmas Carol**," $22.3 million.
3. "**The Men Who Stare at Goats**," $6.2 million.
4. "**Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire**," $6.1 million.
5. "**Michael Jackson's This Is It**," $5.1 million.
6. "**The Fourth Kind**," $4.7 million.
7. "**Couples Retreat**," $4.3 million.
8. "**Paranormal Activity**," $4.2 million.
9. "**Law Abiding Citizen**," $3.9 million.
10. "**The Box**," $3.2 million.

"Roland is that type of filmmaker that casts his net really wide," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "The story is something people could really relate to. It's a story of the survival of humanity."

"Disney's A Christmas Carol" slipped to No. 2 with $22.3 million, down only 26 percent from its No. 1 opening gross a weekend earlier. The Jim Carrey holiday adventure raised its 10-day total to $63.3 million.

Big films typically can drop 50 percent or more in the second weekend, but the strong hold for "A Christmas Carol" indicates it could have a long shelf life through the holidays.

Lionsgate's acclaimed drama "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" broke into the top-10 as it expanded to more theaters after a huge debut in limited release the previous weekend.

Finishing at No. 4, "Precious" took in $6.1 million in 174 theaters, averaging $35,000 a cinema and raising its 10-day total to $8.9 million. That compared to a $19,095 average in 3,404 theaters for "2012."

With a cast that includes Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey and Lenny Kravitz, "Precious" stars newcomer Gabourey Sidibe as a Harlem teen pulling herself out of an abyss of illiteracy, incest and domestic abuse.

"Michael Jackson's "This Is It" added $5.1 million domestically to raise its total to $67.2 million. The Sony release became the all-time top-grossing music documentary, passing the $65.3 million total of last year's "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert."

Bacall and two others receive early Oscars awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Without the burden of a live worldwide broadcast, members of the film academy threw themselves a lively yet relaxed dinner party to honor the first Oscar winners of the season.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences broke with tradition and presented its honorary Oscars off-camera Saturday night, months ahead of the televised ceremony in March.

Actress Lauren Bacall, B-movie king Roger Corman and "Godfather" cinematographer Gordon Willis each received Oscar statuettes during the black-tie banquet at the Grand Ballroom above the Kodak Theatre, the same room where the annual post-Academy Awards Governors Ball is held.

AP

Filmmaker Roger Corman, left, actress Lauren Bacall, center, and cinematographer Gordon Willis pose with their honorary Oscars following The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences 2009 Governors Awards, Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009, in Los Angeles.

In addition, producer John Calley was honored with the Irving J. Thalberg Memorial Award, recognizing career accomplishments that include "Catch-22," "The Remains of the Day" and "The Da Vinci Code."

Each of the recipients was chosen by the academy's Board of Governors.

Tom Hanks, Jack Nicholson, Annette Bening, Morgan Freeman and Steven Spielberg were among the 600 invited guests at the inaugural Governors Awards event.

"We're gathered here together, all artists, celebrating excellence without any television cameras—isn't it great?" said veteran producer Norman Jewison. Warren Beatty agreed: "It's so much better... that nobody's worrying whether 36.5 million people are watching us or 29.2," he said.

Guests drank Champagne and dined on filet mignon as each honoree was celebrated with tributes, toasts and a generous montage of film clips—leisurely elements not possible in previous years when special-Oscar presentations were built into the already-crowded Oscar broadcast.

Corman, 83, was the first to be honored Saturday night. The longtime producer-director was lauded for being a champion of independent and efficient filmmaking and for promoting women to positions of leadership long before it was popular.

Quentin Tarantino said the man behind films such as "Bloody Mama" and "X: The Man With the X-Ray Eyes," inspired him to become a filmmaker. He praised Corman for his "undeniable impact on the industry, both as a business and as an art form."

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2012

Friday		4:05	7:05	10:10
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	10:10
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Never before has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, so many religions, scientists, and governments. A global cataclysm brings an end to the world and tells of the heroic struggle of the survivors.

A Christmas Carol

Friday		4:25	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:00	

Jim Carrey, Robin Wright Penn
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

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the twilight saga: new moon
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The Men Who Stare at Goats

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:20	

George Clooney, Jeff Bridges
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

The Fourth Kind

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:00	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:10	4:00	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:10	

Milla Jovovich, Will Patton
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Michael Jackson's This Is It

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:35
Saturday	1:00	4:30	7:15	9:35
Sunday	1:00	4:30	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:15	

Michael Jackson
Musical, Documentary • Rated PG

The Box

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:05	4:10	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:05	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Cameron Diaz, James Marsden
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Astro Boy

Friday		4:15		
Saturday	1:15	4:15		
Sunday	1:15	4:15		
Mon thru Thurs		4:15		

Freddie Highmore, Nicolas Cage
Action, Comedy • Rated PG

Vampire's Assistant

Friday			7:25	10:00
Saturday			7:25	10:00
Sunday			7:25	
Mon thru Thurs			7:25	

John C. Reilly, Chris Mssoglia
Adventure, Fantasy, Children • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
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TWILIGHT

From Page 19

"non-threatening, more on the boyish side of good looks." The November issue features Lautner and Pattinson on the cover.

Most Tiger Beat readers, who range in age from 8 to 16, "still aren't dating boys in real life and this is their first exposure to boys as in 'They're cute. I like them,'" Hurst says.

Chloe buys Tiger Beat when it has a good Lautner spread. She'll also Google him from time to time and, until recently, kept a "very hot, shirtless picture" of him as her computer screen-saver. But she's not as obsessive as some of her friends, who check YouTube for him daily and follow various "Twilight" fan sites.

She and a dozen of her friends are planning to make their own Team Jacob T-shirts and see "New Moon" when it opens Friday.

Chloe's mom, Jill Mullikin-Bates, approves of her daughter's love for Lautner, calling the young actor "a wholesome, realistic role model."

"He's the right age and super cute," says the 47-year-old mother of two. "It totally brings me back to when I was that age and having those fantasies."

Mom's teen heartthrob? Leif Garrett, a late-1970s icon adored for his feathered, Farrah Fawcett-style hair.

Fawcett, of course, was the most popular pinup of her day. But the boys who bought her iconic poster related to her in a completely different way than Chloe does, because they typically don't have relationships with their on-screen idols the way girls do. Most guys want to get physical with their love objects, where girls fantasize about their heartthrob becoming their boyfriend.

"Pinups are more explicitly eroticized where a heartthrob ... is about feelings, being able to imagine romance rather than just sex and sexuality," says Karen Tongson, a professor of English and Gender Studies at the University of Southern California.

Former heartthrob Rick Springfield says he never believed his adolescent female followers were attracted to him sexually: "If they were confronted with this older man and they saw all this body hair and whiskers, they'd probably completely gross out."

He theorizes that young, screaming fans are merely responding to fledgling feelings of attraction they can't yet define. "They're just letting out all this new energy that they're discovering," he says.

Chloe says if she ever met Lautner in person, she'd be "freaking out on the inside but trying to act cool on the outside." Sometimes when she's with her friends, "we pretend what we'd say to him if we were more confident."

As if adolescent emotions weren't enough, today's heartthrob crushes are supported by all manner of merchandising and gadgetry.

"It's so much more elaborate than it used to be," says USC cultural historian Leo Braudy. "Every movie comes fit with its posters and its icons and its bobbleheaded dolls."

Where Chloe's mom had to wait for the latest Tiger Beat to get new photos of Leif Garrett, the media empires that create the latest teen idols are ready with an array of products for every Zac Efron around—albums, posters, ring tones, T-shirts, tote bags and more. Then there's the life-sized cardboard cutout of Lautner that Chloe's mom and dad recently bought for her.

One day the doorbell rang at Chloe's San Fernando Valley home and cardboard Lautner was standing there, wearing a T-shirt and jeans and his trademark sweet smile.

He now stands in her bedroom, near the window and the little table where she writes in her journal—her first vision every morning and the last thing she sees each night.

Palin's way of talkin' dissected, you betcha

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—When Sarah Palin burst onto the national political stage there was a lot of talk about her distinctive way of talkin', you betcha.

Heck, she moved to Alaska when she was too young to speak and grew up in the small town of Wasilla, but doggone it, why did she talk like someone from the movie "Fargo"?

Three University of Wisconsin-Madison linguists tackled the conundrum in a research article to be published in the Journal of English Linguistics next month. The answer lies in something that happened in the 1930s.

During the presidential campaign, almost every aspect of Palin's life, including how she talked, was dissected by everyone from curious voters to political pundits. Many noted that for someone who grew up in Alaska, she talked a lot like she had been raised in Michigan, Wisconsin or Minnesota.

This Nov. 10, 2009 photo taken in Madison, Wis., shows, from left, University of Wisconsin-Madison linguists Eric Raimy, Joe Salmons and Thomas Purnell.

AP

The UW researchers said people living in Alaska's Matanuska and Susitna valleys, where Wasilla is located, are largely descendants of farmers who moved there in the 1930s from the Upper Midwest. More than 200 farm families moved to the Wasilla area in 1935 as part of a government program to start a new farming community.

"Everybody's ear was basically right, but there's a little complexity there that you don't get until you go through and hack through it systematically," said Joe Salmons, director of UW's Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures. He wrote the paper along with UW linguistics professors Thomas Purnell and Eric Raimy after they parsed the 7,640 words Palin spoke during the 2008 vice presidential debate.

While Palin has the expected Upper Midwestern speech patterns, she also has what Salmons called "screaming hallmarks of western speech."

For example, Palin pronounces the word "feel" like "fill" and "peel" like "pill." Those inflections were not picked up on by the media or those who lampooned Palin, including Tina Fey on "Saturday Night Live," Salmons said.

"It wasn't part of the stereotype," he said.

They found that she dropped the -ing at the end of words nearly 12 percent of the time, said the words "darn" and heck" two times each, referred to her grandmother as "gramma" and offered a "shout out" to a third-grade class in Alaska.

That type of informal speech is jarring to listeners attuned to hearing formal political talk and led many to question whether Palin was doing it for effect, Purnell said.

"This is a situation where you really expect someone to be using the most formal grammar," Salmons said.

No matter how natural it may sound, some of what Palin says is probably cultivated to appeal to a certain demographic, said Carl Shepro, a political science professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

David Bowie, an English professor specializing in linguistics at the same university, said Palin didn't use so many informalities before she ran for national office.

"She doesn't sound like that when she's speaking to Alaskans," Bowie said.

Dobbs says his departure from CNN was 'amicable'

NEWYORK (AP)—Lou Dobbs says he doesn't feel like he was pushed out of CNN, the news organization where he worked for all but two years of its existence until last Wednesday.

"Not at all," he said in a weekend interview. "I don't know if people will believe it, but we had a very amicable parting on the best of terms. I spent 29 years there building that company, and I wish everyone there nothing but the best, and they have reciprocated with me."

He announced his resignation on "Lou Dobbs Tonight," finished the newscast and walked out of CNN.

It's hard to know whether the abruptness or the lack of rancor surrounding the exit was more noteworthy. Dobbs' outspokenness had made him a political target—so much so that there were parties celebrating the departure over the weekend—and an uncomfortable contradiction to what CNN says it wants to be.

Dobbs

Dobbs said he plans to take time deciding what he wants to do, beyond his daily radio show. He promised to reach out to groups who criticized him, most prominently because he advocated stern measures to halt illegal immigration. A petition campaign seeking his ouster took root in recent months after Dobbs gave attention on his show to questions about President Barack Obama's place of birth.

Dobbs spoke his mind freely on his radio show, unrelated to CNN, but tried at management's request for the past several months to do a straight television newscast. He and CNN President Jon Klein spoke frequently about the direction of the show.

British scientist says she penned call-girl blog

LONDON (AP)—A British scientist says she is Belle de Jour, the anonymous blogger whose accounts of life as a call girl were turned into books and a TV series.

Brooke Magnanti was quoted by the Sunday Times as saying she decided to reveal her secret because she was afraid an ex-boyfriend would expose her.

Magnanti, 34, is a child health researcher at the University of Bristol in western England. She told the newspaper she turned to the sex trade in 2003 while finishing her Ph.D. and worked as an escort for more than a year.

She blogged about the experience in the guise of Belle de Jour, a legal secretary who moonlights as a sex worker.

The blog formed the basis of three books and the British TV series "Secret Diary of a Call Girl," shown on Showtime in the United States.

Debate swirled about whether the anonymous author was real or fictional, and Belle de Jour was accused by some of glamorizing prostitution.

Magnanti said on her blog Sunday she was relieved "to be able to defend what my experience of sex work is like to all the skeptics and doubters."

Magnanti said her scientific colleagues had been "amazingly kind and supportive" about the news. The university said her past was not relevant to her current job. Her publisher, Orion, said in a statement that it was "a courageous decision for Belle de Jour to come forward with her true identity and we support her decision to do so."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'Hello, Ohio!' (Psst! Boss, we're in Michigan)

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Want to get away, Boss? Bruce Springsteen bellowed "Hello, Ohio!" to his fans at the Palace of Auburn Hills. That's in Michigan. The 60-year-old rock legend referred to the neighboring state several times Friday night until E Street Band guitarist Steve Van Zandt whispered in his ear. A visibly embarrassed Springsteen grinned and said such a mistake was "every front man's nightmare." The Detroit Free Press says Springsteen rocked the forgiving audience for nearly three hours with new and old hits, including a complete performance of his album "Born to Run."

Md. attorney plans book on executed DC sniper

BALTIMORE (AP)—A Baltimore attorney who became a confidant of executed D.C. sniper mastermind John Allen Muhammad is writing a book about him. J. Wyndal Gordon volunteered as standby counsel during the 2006 trial in Virginia in which Muhammad represented himself. Gordon tells The Baltimore Sun Sunday that they forged a strong bond. He says Muhammad suggested the book. Muhammad was put to death Tuesday for killing Dean Harold Meyers during an October 2002 shooting spree that left 10 dead and terrorized Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Gordon says the book will present Muhammad's story "without the filters and rules of evidence that prevented him from getting things in court." Attorney Jonathan Sheldon, who most recently represented Muhammad, calls the book inappropriate.

Men applaud the pleasures of being with older women

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: In your response to the letter from "'Cougar' in New York" (Sept. 3), you invited your male readers to share their thoughts. Abby, cougars are nothing new. They're simply out of the closet.

Men have been called "dirty old men" for their dalliances with younger women. But older women have quietly involved themselves with younger men for years. As women have become more successful, both in the corporate environment and individually, they have grown bolder in their personal lives.

As a 58-year-old man, I look on this as a natural progression of the boomer-born sexual revolution. When I was in my teens and suffering the testosterone overload, my father said, "Look for an older woman to teach you the ropes." His idea was that they had the experience and patience to tutor.

I don't consider "cougar" as being predatory, nor do most men and women I know. Our world is changing and evolving, and this is simply another chapter.

SAN DIEGO READER

DEAR SAN DIEGO READER: I appreciate your comments. My male readers shared some interesting insights in favor of the "cougar." Read on:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Older women are more established and more interested in fostering personal relationships. Many young women are highly career-oriented and less interested in pursuing relationships, and that can be a turnoff for men. Not all men avoid commitment. Some of us desire it, and we have a greater chance of finding it with someone older, even at the risk of finding a woman beyond childbearing years.

WILLIAM IN MARYLAND

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: In truth, I am neither looking for a cougar nor a younger woman. What I am looking for is someone full of life, full of ideas, able to think for herself and not wanting to think for me. I seek someone who is confident, but humble. THAT is what I find attractive in a woman.

ONE MAN'S PERSPECTIVE

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: On my 25th birthday, I met a woman who was 10 years older than me. We were both just looking for someone to have fun with. Six months later we were married. We were still together 45 years later when she passed away. I wouldn't trade our years together for anything because we were friends and able to talk about anything to each other. We learned to enjoy simple pleasures, and that made all the difference. If you find someone you are comfortable with, don't let the calendar get in your way.

STILL GRIEVING IN KILLEEN, TEXAS

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "'Cougar' in New York" answered her own question when she said, "I am a caring, fun person who loves music and dancing." Women like her are attractive at any age. It's the lack of older men who can keep up with them that makes "cougars" available to younger guys!

JOHN IN GRAND MARAIS, MINN.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Age is just a number. The age difference doesn't matter. Women tend to live longer than men.

I'm in my early 50s and going through a divorce. I always wanted to be a better dancer, so I enrolled in a dance class to improve my skills. I met a wonderful woman there who is several years older than me. Life happens.

We have been dating for more than a year now, and we're having the time of our lives. As my friend says, "Does it get any better than this?"

"BOY TOY" IN NEW YORK

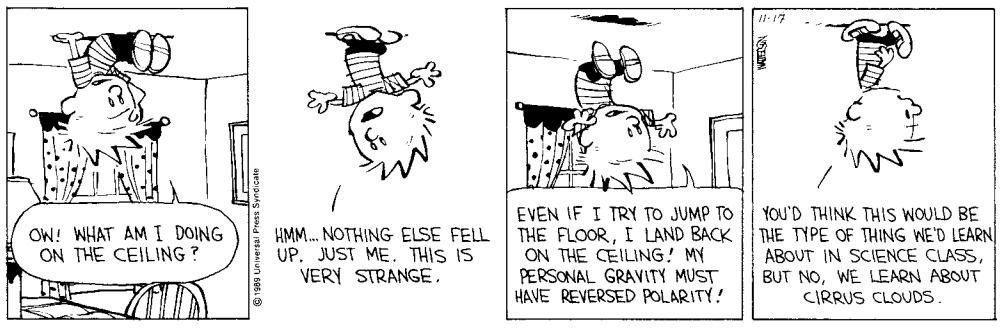
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

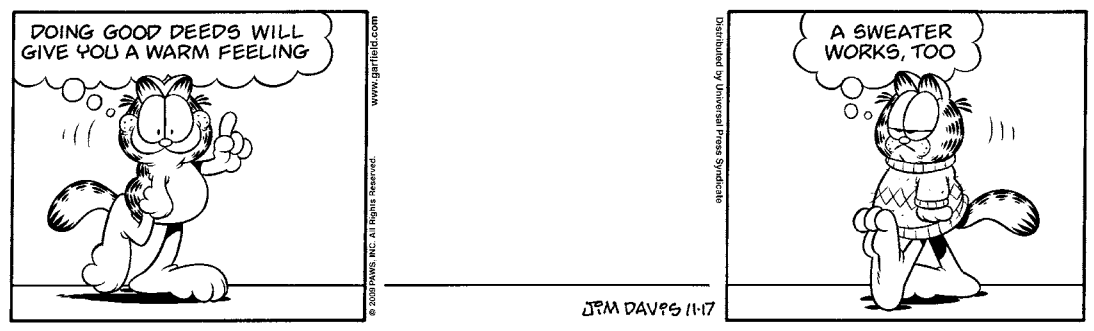
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OW! WHAT AM I DOING ON THE CEILING?
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
HMM... NOTHING ELSE FELL UP. JUST ME. THIS IS VERY STRANGE.
EVEN IF I TRY TO JUMP TO THE FLOOR, I LAND BACK ON THE CEILING! MY PERSONAL GRAVITY MUST HAVE REVERSED POLARITY!
11-17
WATTERSON
YOU'D THINK THIS WOULD BE THE TYPE OF THING WE'D LEARN ABOUT IN SCIENCE CLASS, BUT NO, WE LEARN ABOUT CIRRUS CLOUDS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis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A SWEATER WORKS, TOO
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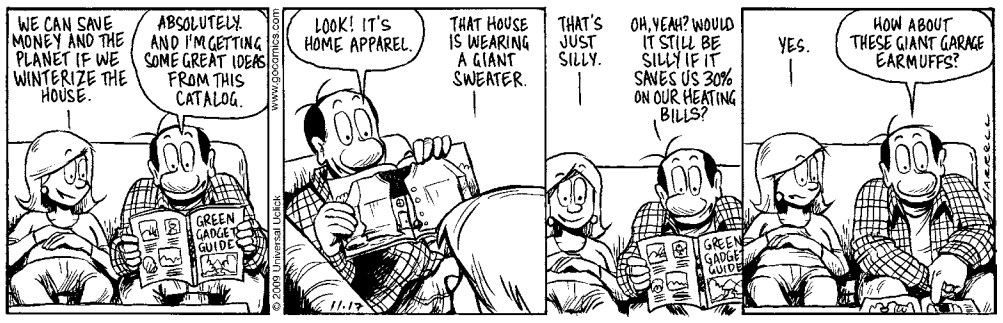
JIM DAVIS 11-17

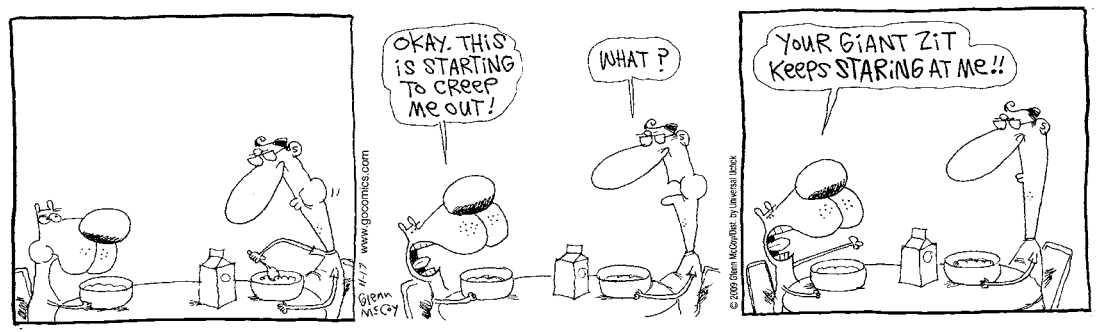
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE CAN SAVE MONEY AND THE PLANET IF WE WINTERIZE THE HOUSE.
ABSOLUTELY. AND I'M GETTING SOME GREAT IDEAS FROM THIS CATALOG.
GREEN GADGET GUIDE
www.gocomics.com
© 2009 Universal Uclick
LOOK! IT'S HOME APPAREL.
THAT HOUSE IS WEARING A GIANT SWEATER.
11-17
THAT'S JUST SILLY.
OH, YEAH? WOULD IT STILL BE SILLY IF IT SAVES US 30% ON OUR HEATING BILLS?
YES.
HOW ABOUT THESE GIANT GARAGE EARMUFFS?
MARCH

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


www.gocomics.com
11-17
Glenn McCoy
OKAY. THIS is STARTING To CREEP Me OUT!
WHAT ?
YOUR GIANT ZIT Keeps STARING AT ME!!
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Automaker Ransom Eli —
5 Wager
8 Footnote abbr.
12 Source
13 "That feels so good!"
14 Protuberance
15 Albacore, e.g.
16 Genesis subject
18 Depot
20 Water trench
21 Coffee vessel
22 Part of TGIF
23 Invigorating
26 Speech
30 "— the ramparts ..."
31 Pair
32 Diary writer Anais
33 Round of applause, e.g.
36 "I give up!"
38 Hostel
39 Work with
40 Sends forth
43 Rapture
47 Holiday from work
49 Base runner's goal
50 Paradise
51 "CSI" evidence
52 Basin accessory
53 Cincinnati team
54 Ukr. or Lith., once
55 McNally partner

DOWN
1 Leftovers
2 Lummox
3 Lisbon lady
4 Rank in a hierarchy
5 Quiche Lorraine ingredient
6 Deserve
7 Commonest English word
8 Just know
9 Seethe
10 "American —"
11 Say it ain't so
17 Taj Mahal city
19 Annoy
22 To and —
23 Greet the villain
24 Gun the engine
25 401(k) alternative
26 Possess
27 Letterhead abbr.
28 Lubricate
29 Away from SSW
31 Heavy weight
34 Tennessee NFLers
35 "Meet Me — Louis"
36 NAFTA contributor
37 Situated below
39 Of an arm bone
40 Always
41 Put together
42 On the rocks
43 Awfully long time
44 Hawk-eyes' home
45 Portent
46 Geeky sort
48 Egos' counterparts

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	P	A	R	■	D	A	B	■	O	F	F	S
P	O	R	E	■	A	P	E	■	B	R	A	E
E	L	A	N	■	F	R	E	E	R	E	I	N
C	O	B	A	L	T	■	F	R	I	E	N	D
■	■	■	M	E	N	U	■	R	E	B	■	■
V	E	H	E	M	E	N	T	■	N	I	C	E
I	T	O	■	A	S	I	A	N	■	R	U	N
A	C	M	E	■	S	T	R	A	N	D	E	D
■	■	■	E	A	R	■	E	D	G	E	■	■
A	L	F	R	E	D	■	I	S	S	U	E	R
B	O	R	N	F	R	E	E	■	T	R	A	Y
E	P	E	E	■	E	N	S	■	E	S	S	E
L	E	E	R	■	W	E	T	■	D	A	Y	S

Yesterday's answer 11-17

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30			■	■	31			■	■	32		
33			34	35			■	36	37			
■	■	■	38			■	39			■	■	■
40	41	42			■	43				44	45	46
47					48			■	49			
50				■	51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Isaac Hanson, 29; Daisy Fuentes, 43; RuPaul, 49; Danny DeVito, 65

Happy Birthday: Once you realize what it is you really need in your life, it will be easy for you to make the changes required to meet your goals. You need to look beyond your regular parameters. Don't be afraid to change your mind or your plans mid-stream if the end result will be better for you. It's up to you to take care of business. Your numbers are 2, 11, 13, 22, 25, 36, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Considering how you are making money should encourage you to look for something more challenging. Making a move or surrounding yourself with a different environment or group of associates will be beneficial. A partnership is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may be confused by the signals you are receiving from partners or people you are dealing with right now. Listen carefully to be aware of what's true and what isn't. Don't allow yourself to fall into someone's trap. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be living in the moment. A love connection can lead to an exciting time with interesting new developments if you are receptive to what's being offered. A change in your professional direction shows potential. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stop going down that long pathway that leads to doom and gloom. Consider what makes you happy and incorporate more of it into your life. It's you who sets your goals, so stop playing the role of the victim. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will learn a valuable lesson if you take careful note of the behavior of people who interest you most. Be independent and protect your rights instead of giving in to someone who wants to control what you do and what you can accomplish. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your friends close but do not lose sight of your enemies. Someone you work with will be trying to get ahead at your expense. Emotional blackmail is apparent and you must not give in to a sob story. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Mix the old with the new and bring your past and your future together. A romantic getaway will do wonders for you. Single or not, adding spice to your life will enhance your current relationship or bring new lovers into your life. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): An impulsive decision regarding your home or personal life will cause a rift between you and someone you are close to. Confusion and uncertainty are apparent, so discuss your intentions with anyone whom your plans will affect. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Finish what you start. Take stock of where you are and where you want to be. Procrastination will lead to depression and a lowered self-esteem. Secret matters will turn out to be less than what you had hoped. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Focus on work, making money and finding new outlets for your talent. Do not let your emotions get in the way or let someone who disappointed you occupy your time and hold you back. An older relative or one of your beliefs will cause you confusion. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Trust in yourself. You have to do things your way and finish what you start. A relationship is questionable. You probably can accomplish more on your own. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't stop when you are only halfway to the finish line. A financial gain is apparent. Collect old debts or start up a venture that can lead to personal profits. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a great learner and a giving teacher. You are open-minded, thoughtful and loyal to your beliefs, friends and family.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		3						1
	1			9			3	
			3	7				2
			4		2	7		
	9	8				6	2	
		6	5		9			
7				3	5			
	8			2			5	
5						8		6

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	3	9	5	8	1	4	6
8	6	1	4	7	2	5	9	3
5	4	9	3	6	1	8	2	7
9	3	6	7	8	5	2	1	4
4	1	5	6	2	3	9	7	8
2	8	7	1	4	9	3	6	5
3	5	4	2	9	6	7	8	1
6	9	8	5	1	7	4	3	2
1	7	2	8	3	4	6	5	9

Difficulty Level ★ 11/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND **Solution: 7 letters**

M	O	R	A	N	G	E	G	N	A	H	C	X	E	E
E	L	D	E	E	N	D	A	E	R	H	T	C	C	S
T	I	I	N	F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N	C	T
S	N	E	R	E	P	O	R	T	S	N	E	S	N	A
Y	S	X	S	E	L	A	W	T	O	D	U	E	R	B
S	T	E	S	H	W	D	R	M	N	P	M	R	U	L
E	I	C	E	A	A	O	Y	E	E	E	A	S	L	I
I	T	U	T	T	S	E	P	R	G	N	I	U	E	S
L	U	T	A	E	T	E	V	A	G	N	(T)	R	D	H
O	T	I	R	I	D	I	N	E	E	(N)	L	V	N	M
P	I	V	S	N	S	A	M	S	(I)	S	A	E	A	E
O	O	E	I	I	M	E	S	(M)	R	T	N	Y	M	N
N	N	S	O	D	N	E	R	T	O	E	D	A	M	T
O	R	N	O	T	E	S	S	E	I	C	I	L	O	P
M	U	E	S	U	M	D	O	M	E	S	T	I	C	L

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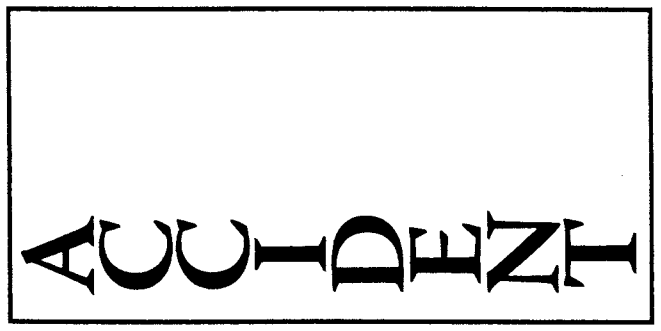

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Lakers booed at home in loss to Rockets

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Aaron Brooks scored a career-high 33 points, including five 3-pointers, and the Houston Rockets beat the Los Angeles Lakers 101-91 on Sunday night, sending them to a second consecutive loss.

The NBA champion Lakers were coming off a 105-79 drubbing at Denver two nights earlier only to have another team they vanquished in last season's title run show them up at home, where they got booed.

Aussie David Andersen added a career-high 19 for the Rockets, who lost 103-102 at home in overtime in the teams' first meeting earlier this month.

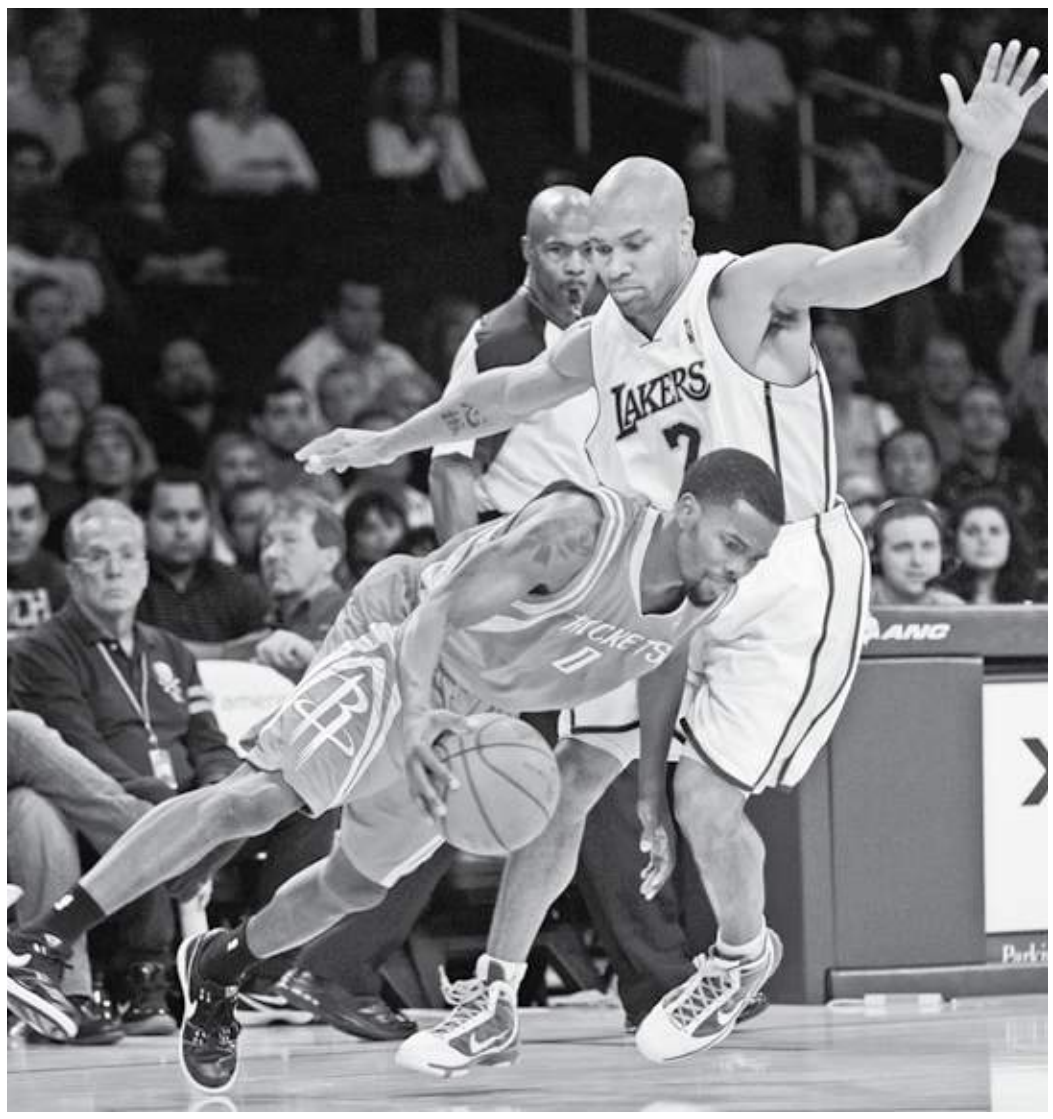
Bryant scored 41 points in that game, but he had just 18 Sunday. Ron Artest, who went to Los Angeles around the time Trevor Ariza went to Houston in July, added 22 points. Andrew Bynum had 21 points and 11 rebounds.

The Lakers got a combined 12 points out of starters Lamar Odom and Derek Fisher.

Ariza received his NBA championship ring from Bryant and Fisher before the game, which may have accounted for his first-half performance. He was 1 for 10 from the floor and 1 of 6 from 3-point range. He finished with nine points, well off his team-leading 19.4 average.

Andersen scored Houston's first six points of the fourth, pushing their lead to 86-73 while fans booed the home team. The Lakers couldn't get a sustained run going, twice turning the ball over on offensive fouls by Bynum and Odom.

Houston finished 16 of 19 from the line and shot 42 from the floor. The Lakers hit 38 percent from the field, with Bryant going 5 of 20.



AP

Houston Rockets guard Aaron Brooks (0) drives around Los Angeles Lakers guard Derek Fisher during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Brooks sat out much of the fourth, but he wasn't needed. Carl Landry ran off six in a row before Brooks returned to make 1 of 2 free throws for a 97-84 lead that sent fans heading for the exits.

Brooks' personal 10-0 run gave the Rockets a 76-68 lead late in the third and seemingly took the life out of the Lakers. He completed a four-point play after getting fouled by Fisher and hit two more 3s.

Andersen scored 13 points in the second, when the Rockets tied the game twice and took a two-point lead before trailing 54-52 at the break.

Bryant and Artest carried the Lakers to an 18-6 lead before Brooks' and Budinger's shooting rallied the Rockets within six points after the first quarter.

Suns 101, Raptors 100

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire followed one of the worst games of his career with his best game of the season, scoring 30 points to lead the Suns over Toronto.

It was the Suns' 11th straight win over the Raptors, and their 13th in a row at home.

They are the only team in the league to score at least 100 points in every game this season and they have scored at least 100 in 30 straight home games.

Steve Nash had 23 points and nine assists, and Channing Frye added 20, hitting six 3-pointers. Chris Bosh led the Raptors with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Hedo Turkoglu scored 20 points, and Andrea Bargnani had 17.

Mavericks 95, Pistons 90

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points and Rodrique Beaubois added 14 points on 6-for-6 shooting to help the Dallas Mavericks beat Detroit.

Drew Gooden had 11 points and 11 rebounds, and Shawn Marion also had 11 points, while Jason Kidd added 10 points and seven assists for the Mavericks.

Rodney Stuckey led the Pistons with 28 points, and Will Bynum had 27, including 17 in the fourth quarter. Ben Gordon, though, went 1 for 16 and missed a 3-pointer that would have tied it with 2 seconds left.

Clippers 101, Thunder 93

At Oklahoma City, Baron Davis scored 24 points, including a key 3-pointer in the final minute, to help Los Angeles end a three-game losing streak.

Chris Kaman added 25 points on 10-for-15 shooting and had seven rebounds for Los Angeles. Kevin Durant scored a season-high 40 points and had eight rebounds for Oklahoma City, which was seeking what would have been only its second three-game winning streak since the club moved from Seattle before last season.

NBA BRIEFS

Grizzlies sign veteran Tinsley

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The Memphis Grizzlies signed point guard Jamaal Tinsley on Saturday, adding a player with a checkered past and a 1 1/2-year layoff to their troubled team. The Grizzlies announced the signing in a press release before their game against the Minnesota Timberwolves. Tinsley was bought out by the Indiana Pacers in July, but has not played in the NBA since the middle of the 2007-08 season. He was still under contract with the Pacers, but told to stay away from the team last season. In his seven seasons with Indiana, Tinsley averaged 10.4 points and seven assists. The assists average puts him seventh among active players. Tinsley's signing comes as the Grizzlies are in limbo regarding the length of Allen Iverson's absence. Iverson, who signed with the team in September, is away for an indefinite length of time to deal with personal matters. General manager Chris Wallace said the Iverson situation was not a factor in the decision.

Dampier taken to hospital for tests

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Dallas Mavericks center Erick Dampier has been taken to a hospital in the Detroit area after becoming ill. Dampier was out for Sunday's game against the Detroit Pistons. The Mavericks said Dampier became ill before the game, and was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for further tests. He was accompanied by Mavericks trainer Casey Smith.

Outlaw suffers stress fracture

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Portland forward Travis Outlaw sustained a stress fracture in his left foot during the first quarter of the Trail Blazers' game against Charlotte on Saturday night. Outlaw entered the game third on the team in scoring, averaging 10.9 points. Team officials said he was out indefinitely and would return to Portland for further evaluation.

Abdul-Jabbar surprised by reax to leukemia news

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is glad he went public about being treated for a rare form of leukemia because it has given him a chance to reconnect with people.

The NBA's career scoring leader said Sunday that since his recent announcement he has been stopped by people in public who wish him well and encourage him about his condition.

"The response has been really intense," he said. "I didn't expect it to play out this way, but it's been wonderful. I've got people's prayers and their support and they ask what they can do. People just want to connect and it's been beautiful."

Their reaction has taken the 62-year-old six-time NBA MVP by surprise. Abdul-Jabbar was known for being introverted and sullen during his 20-year playing career, often refusing to talk to the media. As a result, he has been a low-profile presence since retiring in 1989 despite his stellar basketball accomplishments at UCLA and in the NBA.

Abdul-Jabbar said he's in good spirits about his future because the chronic myeloid leukemia is in remission. He was diagnosed last December.

"I'm not dealing with a death sentence and that's one thing that was very important for me to communicate with everyone, that this condition can be managed," he said. "Too many people don't understand that."

Several of his former teammates and opponents from his NBA days have reached out to him and Abdul-Jabbar said he is appreciative.

Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson said Abdul-Jabbar had confided his condition to him before the public announcement.

"We're obviously empathetic toward what he's going through," Jackson said.

He plans on continuing his job as a special assistant coach with the NBA champion Lakers, working on a documentary based on his last book, "On the Shoulders of Giants" about the Harlem renaissance, and keeping in touch with his five children ranging in age from 18 to 37.

Abdul-Jabbar said he hasn't closed on the door on being a head coach in the NBA, a job that has eluded him for years.

"I really need to deal with what I'm dealing with now and I really can't pursue it," he said. "I got a full plate right now."

Tim Hudson agrees on $28M, 3-year deal with Braves

ATLANTA (AP)—Tim Hudson agreed to a $28 million, three-year contract with the Atlanta Braves on Thursday, giving the team a wealth of starting pitching and setting up a likely trade to bolster the offense.

Hudson could have returned to the Braves under a $12 million option, but the sides focused on a longer deal after the right-hander showed he had overcome major elbow surgery.

His new deal calls for salaries of $9 million in each of the next three seasons, and the Braves get a $9 million club option for 2013 with a $1 million buyout. If Hudson pitches at least 600 innings over the next three seasons, he would receive a $500,000 bonus after the 2012 season.

The 34-year-old grew up in neighboring Alabama and said all along he was willing to give the Braves a discount to remain close to home. The agreement was reached quickly after the team completed its postseason organizational meetings.

The pitcher said it actually took longer to schedule a physical and set up insurance for the new contract than the actual negotiations.

"I did all I could do to get healthy and show them they could have confidence in me," said Hudson, who returned to start seven games late in the season after missing a full year. "They came to me with an opening offer than was more than fair. They showed me they really wanted to get something done, as did I."

The Braves now have six starters under contract for next season: Hudson, Javier Vazquez, Jair Jurrjens, Tommy Hanson, Derek Lowe and Kenshin Kawakami.

Jurrjens (14-10, 2.60 ERA) and Hanson (11-4, 2.89), both 23, are the long-term cornerstones of the staff and Vazquez is coming off one of the best seasons (15-10, 2.87) of his career. Vazquez, who is heading into the final year of his contract, might be the most attractive pitcher in a trade since Lowe (15-10, 4.67) and Kawakami (7-12, 3.86) are both in the middle of expensive, long-term deals.

Colts take advantage of Pats' gamble for 35-34 win

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Bill Belichick risked everything on one play Sunday night.

It cost him a victory, and it may wind up costing him a trip back to Indianapolis for a rematch with Peyton Manning later this season.

After the New England coach failed on a stunning gamble deep in his own territory, Manning threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Wayne with 13 seconds left that rallied the unbeaten Colts to a 35-34 win over the Patriots.

"It's a bummer," Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said.

Needing a first down to seal the game, Belichick decided to go for it on fourth-and-2 from his own 28 with 2:08 to go. The Patriots called their second timeout of the drive, leaving them with none, to set up the play: A short pass from Brady to Kevin Faulk, something the 2007 NFL MVP had repeatedly used to burn Indy's young, depleted pass defense all night.

Not this time.

Faulk made a juggling catch but safety Melvin Bullitt, who replaced Bob Sanders in the lineup, came straight up the field and drove the Patriots running back into the ground a half-yard short of the marker.

"We tried to win the game on that play," Belichick explained. "I thought we could make the yard. We had a good play, we completed it. I don't know how we couldn't get a yard."

It was the most improbable victory for the Colts (9-0) in their 18-game regular-season winning streak, which is now tied for the second-longest in league history with, of all teams, New England.

The Colts trailed by 17 points early in the fourth quarter. This marked the first time Belichick's Patriots had lost when leading by at least 13 in the final period.

"When you see them going for it on fourth down, you get a little nervous, but our defense blitzed them, pressured them and got the stop," Manning said. "It certainly changed our philosophy. In practice, we're going 60 or 70 yards. So we figure we're going to have to go five, six, seven plays. In the huddle, I said, 'Obviously, we need a touchdown, but let's not be in a hurry."

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) throws a pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009 in Indianapolis.

AP

Bengals 18, Steelers 12

At Pittsburgh, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers at their own game in their own stadium, relying on a defense that smothered Ben Roethlisberger by holding the Super Bowl champions to four field goals in an 18-12 victory Sunday that put them in control of the AFC North.

Shayne Graham kicked four field goals in the second half even as the Bengals failed to convert opportunity after opportunity to take control. Bernard Scott's 96-yard kickoff return in the first quarter proved pivotal as Cincinnati, despite playing the second half without ace running back Cedric Benson and failing to convert on the extra point after Scott's score, followed up a 23-20 win over the Steelers on Sept. 27.

By sweeping the season series for the first time since 1998, the Bengals lead the division and, for the first time in their history, have a 5-0 division record.

Dolphins 25, Bucs 23

At Miami, Chad Henne directed a 77-yard scoring drive in the final 1:10, and Dan Carpenter kicked a 25-yard field goal with 10 seconds left for the victory.

Henne spoiled the Bucs' comeback led by Josh Freeman, who rallied his team in the fourth quarter for the second time in two NFL starts. The rookie shook off an awful first half and led his team to a pair of late touchdowns.

Saints 28, Rams 23

At St. Louis, Reggie Bush helped the unbeaten New Orleans Saints overcome another bundle of mistakes and get off to the best start in team history.

Bush scored twice and Drew Brees compensated for two interceptions with two touchdown passes.

Courtney Roby opened the second half with a 97-yard kickoff return and Robert Meachem's 27-yard grab early in the fourth quarter gave New Orleans just enough breathing room to equal the club record with nine straight wins.

Panthers 28, Falcons 19

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Jake Delhomme went turnover-free for the third straight game, finding Steve Smith for two touchdowns.

Matt Ryan twice seemed poised to lead Atlanta on the winning drive. First, his kicker let him down. Then his sophomore troubles popped up again.

The Panthers (4-5) built a 21-10 halftime lead, but the win wasn't sealed until Richard Marshall picked off Ryan, setting up Jonathan Stewart's 45-yard touchdown run with 2:07 left.

Vikings 27, Lions 10

At Minneapolis, Brett Favre passed for a season-high 344 yards and Detroit lost for the 31st time in 33 games.

The Lions (1-8) joined the Houston Oilers, from Nov. 21, 1982 through Nov. 4, 1984, as the only NFL teams to lose 31 games in a 33-game stretch, according to STATS.

Redskins 27, Broncos 17

At Landover, the Washington Redskins broke the 17-point barrier for the first time this season and ended a four-game losing streak.

The Broncos lost their third straight and had to play the second half with Chris Simms at quarterback after Kyle Orton left with an ankle injury.

Titans 41, Bills 17

At Nashville, Chris Johnson ran for 132 yards and two touchdowns for the Titans.

After opening the season with three straight losses, the Titans are on a three-game roll.

Jaguars 24, Jets 22

At East Rutherford, Josh Scobee kicked a 21-yard field goal as time expired after the Jaguars passed up a touchdown in order to drain the clock.

Chargers 31, Eagles 23

At San Diego, LaDainian Tomlinson scored twice to continue his climb up the career rushing and scoring lists as the Chargers moved into a share of the AFC West lead.

Tomlinson gained a season-high 96 yards on 24 carries to pass Thurman Thomas and Franco Harris and move into 12th place all-time with 12,145 yards. His two touchdowns gave him 146 and moved him past Marcus Allen and into third place on the all-time list.

Donovan McNabb threw for a season-high 450 yards, completing 35 of 55, and two late touchdowns for Philadelphia.

Chiefs 16, Raiders 10

At Oakland, Jamaal Charles scored on a 44-yard run for Kansas City's first rushing touchdown of the season and the Chiefs used a late interception to win their seventh straight game in Oakland.

The Chiefs have managed to win just five of their past 35 games. But three of those wins have come at the Oakland Coliseum.

Cardinals 31, Seahawks 20

At Glendale, Arizona, rookie Beanie Wells had second-half touchdown runs of 10 and 13 yards as Arizona rallied for its second home win in five tries.

Kurt Warner completed 29 of 38 for 340 yards and two touchdown passes as the Cardinals stayed two games up on San Francisco in the NFC West.

Packers 17, Cowboys 7

At Green Bay, Charles Woodson helped the Packers' defense finally play up to its potential against a big-time opponent, forcing two fumbles and picking off a pass by Tony Romo on the goal line.

The Packers sacked Romo five times and held him to 251 yards passing in a momentum-killer for the Cowboys, who had won four straight.

Stephen Ames wins in playoff at Disney

AP

Stephen Ames, left, of Canada, holds the championship trophy with son, Ryan, 10, center, and Mickey Mouse after winning the Children's Miracle Network Classic PGA golf tournament in the second hole of a sudden death playoff at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (AP)—Stephen Ames won his second title in three years at the Children's Miracle Network Classic on Sunday, beating George McNeill and Justin Leonard in a playoff.

Ames was calm and cool on greens that were too slick for most of the field on a sun-baked day at Disney World. He finished with an 8-under 64 for the clubhouse lead, watching as McNeill (67) and Leonard (67) failed to pass him.

Leonard rimmed out a 16-foot putt for the win in regulation, even beginning to pump his fist in celebration only to watch the ball bounce off. He twice left putts short when he was eliminated on the first playoff hole.

"To be this close and not be able to pull it out is disappointing," Leonard said. "Obviously, I thought I made it by my reaction. I was surprised it didn't go in."

McNeill had a 6-foot putt on the second playoff hole trickle around the rim and pop off to give Ames the win.

There were other rallies that didn't end up on the leaderboard.

Sunday was the last day for players to secure a tour card for next year. Only those who finished the year in the top 125 on the money list are guaranteed full status. The next 25 will at least get conditional status and be able to enter more than a dozen tournaments.

For as much back and forth as there was throughout the week, in the end, there wasn't a lot of movement.

Former world No. 1 David Duval already had lost his full status by missing the cut. Robert Garrigus also missed the cut and was knocked out of full status for next year.

Jimmy Walker and Nicholas Thompson were the only two players to move inside the top 125 after beginning the week outside. Walker finished at No. 125.

There were plenty others who cut it close.

Rich Beem shot a 68 to finish at 10 under for the tournament. The 2002 PGA Championship winner finished at No. 122 for the season.

He admitted the pressure to perform this weekend got to him in the first two rounds. He talked to his coach Friday night and said that helped him find his swing.

"I must say it was about as odd as I've ever felt thinking about it. I never expected myself to feel the way that I did," Beem said. "When somebody tells you that you can't do your job next year when you know you're so close, that's not such a good feeling."

Pacquiao shuns tag making him 'greatest boxer of all time'

LAS VEGAS—Even with hubris presenting itself like an unguarded glass chin, Manny Pacquiao coyly refused to deliver the knockout punch.

Popular within boxing circles for his post-fight humility, the new World Boxing Organization welterweight champion deflected praises trumpeting him as the greatest fighter of all time Saturday, preferring to refer to himself as just another "ordinary fighter."

At a post-fight press conference, Top Rank chief Bob Arum listed Pacquiao above boxing's revered icons—even the one who once called himself The Greatest.

"I know I get carried away a lot," Arum said as his pre-statement apology. "But Manny Pacquiao is the best fighter I've ever seen and that includes [Muhammad] Ali, Sugar Ray [Leonard] and [Marvin] Hagler."

Pacquiao, who entered the post-fight press room with puffy eyes and a bandaged ear as a result of blood drained from it to relieve swelling, simply smiled off the comment.

"I don't want to compare my achievements with that of other boxers," said Pacquiao, whose 12th-round TKO of Miguel Cotto made him the first boxer to win world titles in seven weight divisions.

"When I think of what I've achieved in boxing, even for me, it's unbelievable," he added.

Freddie Roach agreed with many that Pacquiao is currently the world's pound-for-pound great, having fought and beaten the best fighters all those seven divisions had to offer.

But era-for-era?

"I think it's safe to say that he the greatest fighter of his era," said the three-time trainer of the year awardee.

Pacquiao, however, corrected his mentor.

"I'm just someone who does my job to give a good fight and enjoyment to the people," he said. "I'm just an ordinary fighter."

Coach interrupted his most famous pupil, saying: "You're not ordinary." ***(PDI)***

DIAMOND

From Page 28

fensive stops. First was when Esdrelon tapped the ball away from the hands of Lerio Pagarao. Sanciangco recovered the loose ball, pulled up for a shot, and missed as he had three Diamond defenders hounding him.

The Auto Fixers controlled the rebound and had Esdrelon sprinting to the their frontcourt and issuing a drop pass to a surprised Capalad. Capalad almost fumbled, but had the presence of mind of stepping inside the paint for the basket that put Diamond back into the driver's seat, 91-90, with eight seconds remaining on the clock.

Diamond led by as much as 13 in the third period, 70-57, but was too complacent in the closing minutes of the third period, allowing Saipan Fresh to come back. By the end of the third period, Diamond led by only five, 74-69 and Saipan Fresh finally grabbed the lead, 86-84, at the 3:47 mark of the fourth period after Pagarao made both free throws.

However, Saipan Fresh failed to complete the come-from-behind win when Opone missed the last attempt in the game. With eight seconds left, Opone inbounded the ball and passed it to Jun Estolas, who drove to the middle and drew the defense of Diamond players before dropping the ball back to Opone. Opone then pulled up for a 10-footer and missed with the ball bouncing off the rim as time expired.

In the masters division, University of Loyola got off to a rousing start after a 98-75 demolition of Cool Water.

James Abuy showered Cool Water with triples, drilling seven shots from downtown and finishing with 31 points.

The second season of the PILCOWA caging opened with a traditional parade of teams. After the parade, Noni Saipan and Wushin were awarded the Best in Uniform trophies in the open and masters divisions, respectively, while IT&E's Pebbles Basilgo was named Best Muse.

First Game

University of Loyola 98 – Abuy 31, Tabora 19, De La Torre 15, Villarin 14, Pineda 9, Brien 7, Jinang 3.

Cool Water 75 – Montano 22, Galulu 14, Quemado 10, Buniag 6, Valencia 6, Dela Cruz 5, Garcia 4, Patricio 4, Mateo 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-13, 47-23, 77-47, 98-75.

Second Game

Diamond Fixers 91 – Barbo 21, Esdrelon 14, Barrios 12, M. Capalad 10, Mercurio 8, Camacho 8, Talania 6, W. Capalad 4, Guiab 2, Manalo 2.

Saipan Fresh 90 – Pagarao 24, Sanciangco 21, Factor 16, Opone 10, Estolas 8, Gapor 5, Villacrusis 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-19, 45-39, 74-69, 91-90.

CLOUD

From Page 28

Tinian's Keli Manglona. Ron Chisato claimed the bronze medal in the 181lbs. to 200lbs. weight class.

Also bringing home two gold medals was Gracie Barra's Jess "Pumpy" Manglona, who dominated the bantamweight and featherweight divisions.

In the bantamweight division (100lbs-130lbs) finals, Manglona edged crowd favorite Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez of Trench Tech on points. Gracie Barra's Paulo Sangalang settled for bronze after a victory via a tapout over Jordan Ogo.

Manglona defeated another Trench Tech fighter in Chris "No Luv" Laayug in their gold-medal collision in the featherweight class (131lbs.-140lbs.).

The super lightweight (141lbs.-150lbs) finals was an all-Marianas Elite affair with Derik "El Peligro" Rangamar beating stablemate Maitai "The Charger" Charley. James Fleming of Trench Tech won the bronze medal.

The lightweight (151lbs-160-lbs) gold medal went to Gracie Barra's Pat Alepuyo, who won via tapout against Guam's Brian Mendiola. Marianas Elite's Jerome Norita saved a bronze medal when he beat Max Kim on points.

Rusty Ada was the fourth Gracie Barra fighter to won a weight division when he outclassed Guam's Kinney Blas in the welterweight class (161lbs-180lbs) finals. Alepuyo also joined the welterweight division and finished third.

The Art of War 3 was organized by Trench Tech and served as a warm-up for Trench Warz 11 "Redemption," which is scheduled for Dec. 18 at the Saipan World Resort.

Next month's event will feature Jason "Rush" Tarkong going up against heavy hitter Gil "The Guamaniac" Meno of Guam in one of the double main events for Trench Warz 11.

For more information on Trench Warz 11, contact Cuki Alvarez at (670)-483-4MMA or via e-mail at trenchwarriorsaipan@yahoo.com.

PWIPWISE

From Page 28

day, 21-12, 21-12, 15-12 to gain its sixth win in eight games and record 13 sets won.

Completing the Top 3 is Chenutt Crew, which played in the last game last Tuesday and defeated Special Delivery to improve to a 7-1 record. Although Chenutt Crew tied Pwipwise in the win-loss mark, the former settled for second place as it had won only 14 sets against the latter's 18. Chenutt Crew added two more sets on its list when it swept Special Delivery in the first two sets, 21-18, 21-12, before bowing in the third set, 14-16.

At the continuation of action in the four-person league on Thursday, Just Do it notched only its second win in eight outings after edging Manta Diver. Just Do It needed an extra point to down the Manta Diver in the first set, 22-20, and secured the victory via an easier 21-16 triumph in the second set. Manta Diver and Just Do It also played extended minutes in the third set with the former finally prevailing, 17-15.

With the loss, Manta Diver remained at the bottom of the team standings with its dismal 0-8 slate.

Git It also had the game in the bag after only two sets, following a 21-14, 21-13 win over Make It Bali. A 17-15 victory in the third set helped Make It Bali foil Git It's bid for a sweep. Git It improved to a 3-5 record to remain in ninth place and keep its playoff chances. Make It Bali holds a 3-5 slate, too, but is two steps ahead of Git It, as the former has earned 10 sets won against the latter's seven.

In the third game on Thursday, Shogunai booked its fifth win in eight games after trouncing O-No. Shogunai took the first two sets to seal the match, 21-13, 21-11, before O-No won the last set, 15-12, to avoid a shutout.

Shogunai is currently in fifth place, while O-No occupies the No. 6 spot with its 4-4 mark.

AJOSTE

From Page 28

have an 8-2 record and have one more game left in the regular season. However, the Sonics would not play their last game until next month, as their duel against the Kagman Sparks is scheduled for Dec. 1.

Hi-5 has two more games (Kagman Sparks and Chalan Kanoa Saints) before it calls it a day in the regular season. The loss to the Sonics was Hi-5's ninth in as many games and the latter is already out of the playoffs as it is still at the bottom of the team standings in the 12-squad field.

The Sonics are likely to finish in the Top 3 and face lower-seeded foes in the eight-team playoffs. The Sonics are currently in third place behind the undefeated G-Stars (7-0) and Sixers (7-1), who handed Tudela's wards their two losses in the league.

There was no way Hi-5 could become the third team to beat the Sonics, as the latter were all business even at the start of the game.

Ajoste drilled 14 of his total points in the first half, which ended with the Sonics taking a commanding 36-15 lead. Six other Sonics players made it into the scoreboard in the first half to dictate the tempo of the game early.

Ajoste still had that impressive shooting touch in the second half, as he added 21 more markers and at one point in that period tallied 11 straight markers. The Southern High School student scored the Sonics first four points and finished what he started, firing the team's last three points and outscoring the entire Hi-5 crew.

Hi-5 was two points short of duplicating its output in the first half, as it had only Jimmy Tudela making more than one field goal in the second half. Tudela topscored for Hi-5 with 10 markers, making most of his points when the game was already decided and the Sonics had already let their guards down.

Sonics 80 – Ajoste 35, D.M. Jeon 10, Villanueva 6, Cadiang 6, Salas 4, Ecalnea 4, Darag 4, Salem3, Feria 2, Sula 2.

Hi-5 28 – Tudela 10, Joab 4, Caro 3, F. Macahito 2, G. Macahito 2, Sapo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 36-21, 80-28.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	8	3	.727	–
Toronto	5	5	.500	2 1/2
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	3 1/2
New York	1	9	.100	6 1/2
New Jersey	0	10	.000	7 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	8	2	.800	–
Miami	7	2	.778	1/2
Orlando	7	3	.700	1
Charlotte	3	6	.333	4 1/2
Washington	2	7	.222	5 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	5	2	.714	–
Cleveland	7	3	.700	–
Indiana	4	3	.571	1 1/2
Chicago	5	4	.556	1 1/2
Detroit	5	5	.500	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	7	3	.700	–
Houston	6	4	.600	1
San Antonio	4	4	.500	2
New Orleans	3	8	.273	4 1/2
Memphis	2	8	.200	5

Northwest Division

Portland	8	3	.727	_
Denver	7	3	.700	1/2
Oklahoma City	5	5	.500	2 1/2
Utah	4	6	.400	3 1/2
Minnesota	1	10	.091	7

Pacific Division

Phoenix	9	2	.818	_
L.A. Lakers	7	3	.700	1 1/2
Sacramento	5	4	.556	3
L.A. Clippers	4	7	.364	5
Golden State	3	6	.333	5

Yesterday's Games

Dallas 95, Detroit 90
L.A. Clippers 101, Oklahoma City 93
Phoenix 101, Toronto 100
Houston 101, L.A. Lakers 91

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	3	0	.667	259	150
Miami	4	5	0	.444	218	227
N.Y. Jets	4	5	0	.444	199	158
Buffalo	3	6	0	.333	140	210

South

Indianapolis	9	0	0	1.000	252	142
Jacksonville	5	4	0	.556	181	220
Houston	5	4	0	.556	215	188
Tennessee	3	6	0	.333	189	255

North

Cincinnati	7	2	0	.778	198	147
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667	207	157
Baltimore	4	4	0	.500	206	154
Cleveland	1	7	0	.125	78	209

West

Denver	6	3	0	.667	167	151
San Diego	6	3	0	.667	237	202
Kansas City	2	7	0	.222	142	215
Oakland	2	7	0	.222	88	217

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	6	3	0	.667	224	169
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556	242	184
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556	232	204
Washington	3	6	0	.333	140	171

South

New Orleans	9	0	0	1.000	331	197
Atlanta	5	4	0	.556	221	194
Carolina	4	5	0	.444	176	215
Tampa Bay	1	8	0	.111	157	256

North

Minnesota	8	1	0	.889	271	184
Green Bay	5	4	0	.556	232	179
Chicago	4	5	0	.444	186	201
Detroit	1	8	0	.111	143	264

West

Arizona	6	3	0	.667	229	184
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444	184	180
Seattle	3	6	0	.333	187	198
St. Louis	1	8	0	.111	100	249

Yesterday's Games

Tennessee 41, Buffalo 17
Washington 27, Denver 17
Miami 25, Tampa Bay 23
Jacksonville 24, N.Y. Jets 22
Cincinnati 18, Pittsburgh 12
New Orleans 28, St. Louis 23
Carolina 28, Atlanta 19
Minnesota 27, Detroit 10
Kansas City 16, Oakland 10
Green Bay 17, Dallas 7
San Diego 31, Philadelphia 23
Arizona 31, Seattle 20
Indianapolis 35, New England 34

PGA CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK CLASSIC SCORES

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (AP)–Scores Sunday after the final round of the Children's Miracle Network Classic at Walt Disney Resort:

FINAL ROUND

x-Stephen Ames, $846,000	69-70-67-64–270
Justin Leonard, $413,600	68-64-71-67–270
George McNeill, $413,600	68-66-69-67–270
Nick O'Hern, $206,800	68-70-66-67–271
Justin Rose, $206,800	65-69-69-68–271
Mathias Gronberg, $169,200	68-69-66-69–272
Brian Davis, $151,575	72-69-68-64–273
D.A. Points, $151,575	71-70-67-65–273
Zach Johnson, $131,600	67-70-69-68–274
Carl Pettersson, $131,600	71-66-67-70–274
Nicholas Thompson, $103,400	72-69-68-66–275
Jonathan Byrd, $103,400	70-68-69-68–275
Jeff Overton, $103,400	70-68-68-69–275
Bill Haas, $103,400	68-69-69-69–275
Chris DiMarco, $72,850	68-68-71-69–276
Matt Weibring, $72,850	68-68-70-70–276
Jimmy Walker, $72,850	69-70-68-69–276
Tom Lehman, $72,850	71-67-69-69–276
Will MacKenzie, $72,850	67-72-66-71–276
Joe Ogilvie, $72,850	70-69-67-70–276
Johnson Wagner, $52,640	70-68-72-67–277
Kent Jones, $52,640	70-68-71-68–277
Greg Owen, $52,640	66-71-70-70–277
Rich Beem, $40,068	69-73-68-68–278
Jeff Maggert, $40,068	71-69-68-70–278
John Rollins, $40,068	70-71-67-70–278
Ben Crane, $40,068	71-70-67-70–278
Todd Hamilton, $34,780	74-68-70-67–279
Spencer Levin, $29,241	71-68-71-70–280
Charles Howell III, $29,241	70-70-71-69–280
Patrick Sheehan, $29,241	70-70-69-71–280
Chez Reavie, $29,241	68-69-71-72–280
David Toms, $29,241	73-67-69-71–280
Michael Bradley, $29,241	70-71-72-67–280
Daniel Chopra, $29,241	68-71-74-67–280
Jay Williamson, $22,619	70-71-70-70–281
Cameron Beckman, $22,619	70-68-73-70–281
Jeff Quinney, $22,619	70-71-71-69–281
Brian Gay, $22,619	68-71-73-69–281
Rickie Fowler, $17,390	66-75-69-72–282
Tim Herron, $17,390	70-66-74-72–282
Bo Van Pelt, $17,390	70-72-69-71–282
Dean Wilson, $17,390	75-65-72-70–282
Ryan Palmer, $17,390	71-71-70-70–282
Jason Bohn, $17,390	72-70-71-69–282
Chris Riley, $17,390	70-71-73-68–282
Harrison Frazar, $12,427	71-70-69-73–283
Brett Quigley, $12,427	71-68-70-74–283
Ricky Barnes, $12,427	73-69-71-70–283
Kevin Streelman, $12,427	70-71-73-69–283
Brendon de Jonge, $12,427	70-72-72-69–283
Tom Pernice, Jr., $10,798	69-67-74-74–284
Darron Stiles, $10,798	71-69-71-73–284
Charles Warren, $10,798	70-70-72-72–284
Rod Perry, $10,798	69-70-73-72–284
James Oh, $10,798	71-71-70-72–284
Casey Wittenberg, $10,798	66-71-77-70–284
D.J. Trahan, $10,798	70-71-74-69–284
Jeff Klauk, $10,798	69-72-74-69–284
Fredrik Jacobson, $10,199	72-69-69-75–285
Kris Blanks, $10,199	67-70-72-76–285
Brandt Snedeker, $10,199	70-70-72-73–285
Richard S. Johnson, $10,199	69-72-71-73–285
Aron Price, $9,823	71-70-71-74–286
Corey Pavin, $9,823	69-71-73-73–286
Rick Price, $9,823	67-73-73-73–286
Marc Turnesa, $9,823	72-70-71-73–286
Briny Baird, $9,588	71-71-69-76–287
Peter Lonard, $9,494	69-70-77-73–289
Ted Purdy, $9,353	69-73-74-74–290
Ken Duke, $9,353	71-71-75-73–290

x-won on second playoff hole

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	7	0
Sixers	7	1
Sonics	8	2
670 Rollers II	5	4
Runnin' Rebels	5	4
CK Saints	5	4
Sparks	4	2
Rollers I	3	5
Ol'Aces	2	4
Celtics	2	7
Young 670 Rollers 3	2	8
Hi-5	0	9

NMIVA STANDINGS

	W	L	Sets Won
Pwipwise	7	1	18
Chewnutt Crew	7	1	14
Random Radicals	6	2	13
Angamwas	6	2	13
Shogunai	5	3	13
O-No	4	4	12
Make It Bali	3	5	10
Special Delivery	3	5	7
Git It	3	5	7
Fisingan	2	5	7
Just Do It	2	6	5
Manta Diver	0	8	2

Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League

MBA-A's Jodel Fernandez returns the ball to GCA, while teammate Charlie Jo looks on.

GCA Eagles' Brandon Chargualaf, left, blocks MBA-A's Paul Carlo Samson.

Above, a Northern Marianas Academy player serves against GCA during their playoff game.

Far left, members of runner-up MBA-A pose with their trophy.

Left, the top individual performers of the participating schools pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the high school division of the Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League.

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Above, GCA Eagles fan watch their team's title game against MBA-A on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Above right, Northern Marianas Academy coach Gabriel White huddles with his wards before the start of the second set of their game against GCA.

Right, members of third placer Calvary Christian Academy show their trophy.

MVP Luther Taylor of GCA poses for *Saipan Tribune*.

Lakers booed at home in loss to Rockets

Aaron Brooks scored a career-high 33 points, including five 3-pointers, and the Houston Rockets beat the Los Angeles Lakers 101-91 on Sunday night, sending them to a second consecutive loss.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Colts take advantage of Pats' gamble for 35-34 win

Bill Belichick risked everything on one play Sunday night.

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Diamond, UOL victorious in opener

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sonics' Tristan Ecalnea is seen here using a screen from teammate Dae Min Jeon to dribble out of Ol'Aces defenders during their game in the Rotary caging. The Sonics played Hi-5 last week and won, 80-28.

Ajoste powers Sonics past Hi-5

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brian Ajoste exploded for 35 points, leading the Sonics to an 80-28 demolition of Hi-5 in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League on Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics' 52-point lead is so far the biggest winning margin posted in the 18-and-under caging. The Jesse Tudela-coached Sonics now

See AJOSTE on Page 26

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Diamond Auto Shop survived a scare in the opening of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League, eking out a 91-90 win over Saipan Fresh Market on Sunday at the JP Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

A Melvin Capalad basket inside the paint off an Elmer Esdrelon feed in the last eight seconds of the game allowed Diamond to open its title defense on a winning note.

Capalad's game-winning basket came after the Auto Fixers made two defensive stops and worked their way back from a three-point deficit in the last 1:07 of the fourth period.

William Opone's putback off a Ryan Sanciangco miss gave Saipan Fresh a three-point advantage, 90-87. Diamond's Elmer Esdrelon canned a pair of free throws in the ensuing play to cut the lead to one, 89-90, with 50 seconds left on the clock.

In their offensive set, Sanciangco lost patience as he quickly attacked the basket and missed. Diamond was also erratic in their next play when Esdrelon's drop pass intended for Darwin Barbo landed outside, returning possession to Saipan Fresh.

The Auto Fixers then made up for that lapse with two de-

See DIAMOND on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Diamond Auto Shop's Badong Camacho, right, pulls up for a running jumper against Saipan Fresh Market's Lerio Pagarao during their game in the PILCOWA caging on Sunday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Pwipwise retains lead in NMIVA league

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Angamwas' Luther Taylor returns the ball, while teammate Linda Anastacio looks on during one of their regular season games in the NMIVA four-person beach volleyball league on the PIC sandcourt.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pwipwise won the battle of leaders in the 2009 PIC/Miller/Gatorade/Monster-NMIFA 4-Person Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Fall League after slipping past Random Radicals last week on the PIC sand court.

Pwipwise and Random Radicals carried identical 6-1 slates before last Tuesday's games, but a 21-19, 21-8, 15-6 win gave the former the solo lead in the 12-team field. Random Radicals dropped to the No. 3 spot with its 6-2 slate, tying Angamwas.

Angamwas shut out Fisingan in the second match last Tues-

See PWIPWISE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jeff Cloud is held down by Tinian's Keli Manglona, but later won via tapout in their gold medal duel in the middleweight class of the Art of War 4 All Island Grappling/Submissions Challenge 2009 on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Cloud shines in Art of War 4

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jeff Cloud put on a show in the Art of War 4 All Island Grappling/Submissions Challenge 2009, topping two weight divisions on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Cloud dethroned Art of War 3 heavyweight champion Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial when the Trench Tech fighter prevailed on points in their gold-medal match in the 201lbs. and above duel. Jacob Han took the bronze medal.

Cloud's second gold medal came in the middleweight class when he won via tapout against

See CLOUD on Page 26